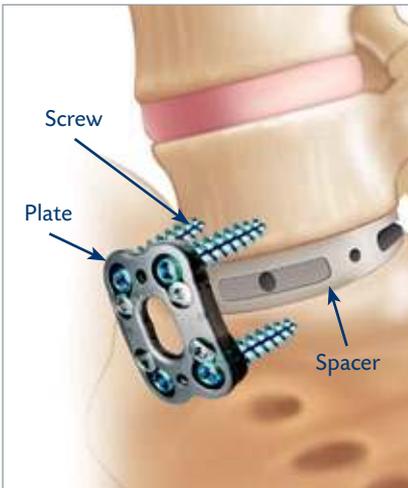


What is Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion (ALIF)?

The primary goal of this procedure is to relieve pressure on either the nerve roots or spinal cord and/or treat a painful disc. The unhealthy disc is removed, using surgical instruments.



An interbody fusion implant may be inserted to fill the vacant disc space. A plate and screws, or an integrated plate-spacer and screws, may be used to hold the vertebrae in place while fusion (bones growing together) occurs.



Synthetic Spacer with Lumbar Plate and Screws



Integrated Plate-Spacer with Screws



What Should Patients Expect During Recovery?

Patients may notice improvement of some or all symptoms and pain from surgery may diminish between two to four weeks after surgery. However, recovery time varies between patients.

It is the surgeon's goal for the patient to return to normal activities as soon as possible. A positive attitude, reasonable expectations and compliance with post-surgery instructions all help to contribute to a satisfactory outcome.

Contraindications, Complications, Warnings, and Precautions

You may be contraindicated for this procedure if you have an infection, a congenital abnormality, are obese, pregnant, mentally ill, diabetic, suffer from rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, or cancer.

As with any surgical procedure, complications may occur following the placement of this device. These can include but are not limited to early or late implant bending, breakage, failure, loosening, movement/migration, bone fracture, and allergic reaction to implant material.

Other general complications associated with any spinal surgical procedure include non-union or delayed union, pseudarthrosis, pain, second surgery, bleeding, early or late infection, spinal cord and/or nerve damage, incisional complication, scar formation, blood vessel damage, cardiovascular system compromise, respiratory problems, complications due to bone grafting, reactions to anesthesia, impotence, sexual dysfunction, paralysis, and death.

This list does not include all possible contraindications, complications, warnings, or precautions. Please consult with your surgeon for additional information on this topic and how it applies to your particular medical condition.