

Multi Level ACDF with UNIPLATE™ and VG2® Cervical Allograft



Pre-Op MRI

History of Present Illness

This is a 40-year-old male with one-year history of severe, disabling neck pain with accompanying radiating pains down both arms and into the hands. The patient was unable to work or participate in sports as he had prior to his injury. His condition did not improve with conservative treatments including physical therapy and pain management.

Preoperative evaluation revealed marked pain in his neck to palpation and an 80% reduction in range of motion. He could only turn to the right 5 degrees and left about 20 degrees. He had marked limitation of extension to 10 degrees. He also exhibited severe mechanical pain.

Radiographs

Review of neck films and MRIs revealed two level degenerative cervical disc disease at C5-C6 and C6-C7 with bilateral foraminal stenosis present at both levels.



Post-Op X-Ray

Treatment Method and Materials

Consequently, the patient was taken to the operating room and underwent a routine two level anterior cervical discectomy and fusion using VG2® Cervical grafting.

A two level UNIPLATE™ Anterior Cervical Plate was then used with self-drilling screws for anterior plating support. The plate was placed to extend over C5-C7. A screw was inserted through the cephalad hole on the plate and into the Caspar Pin hole on C5. The plate was aligned along the midline of the vertebral body. An awl was used to prepare the caudad then the midline hole where the other two screws were inserted. All three screws provided good purchase during insertion.

Once all the screws were inserted, a fluoroscopic image was taken to verify the placement of the screws, and then the CAMS were turned to lock the screws in place.



3 Months Post-Op

Follow-up Results

The patient has had an excellent recovery with resolution of his neck pain and arm symptoms. He presently has no complaints and an intact neurological exam. He participates in an active exercise program and plans on returning to work soon.

AP and lateral cervical x-rays obtained at 1 and 3 month follow up demonstrated evidence of bony fusion proceeding and no significant movement of the plate and screws.

Conclusion

Overall, this case demonstrates the successful use of the UNIPLATE System in a case of two level cervical degenerative disc disease.