**Overview**
This surgery removes damaged or diseased vertebral bone and surrounding discs. It relieves neck, arm and leg symptoms caused by pressure on the spinal cord and spinal nerves.

**Incision Created**
The surgeon performs this procedure through an incision on the front of the neck.

1. **Removing the Discs**
The discs above and below the damaged vertebrae are removed.

2. **Removing the Vertebra**
The surgeon removes the diseased vertebra, releasing pressure from the spinal cord and spinal nerves and relieving symptoms.

3. **Inserting the Graft**
The space is cleared and prepared, and the bone graft is placed between the vertebrae. The graft may be an allograft from a bone bank or an autograft bone taken from the patient's own hip.

4. **Inserting the Plate**
The surgeon may screw a small metal plate over the area to hold the bones in place while the vertebrae heal.

5. **End of Procedure**
During the healing process, the bone graft knits together with the vertebrae above and below to form a new bone mass called a fusion.