

**252 anterior cervical surgeries**

**98 patients excluded:**

- Multilevel surgery (n=60)
- Additional plating for single-level DDD (n=25)
- Prior cervical surgery (n=6)
- Trauma(n=5)
- Spondylodiscitis (n=2)

**154 patients with single-level surgery for DDD**

**53 patients excluded:**

- filled cages (n=23)
- subsequent surgery of the adjacent segment (12)
- not accessible (n=8)
- location > 100 km distance (10)

**101 patients eligible**

**15 patients excluded:**

- did not appear (15)

**86 included**