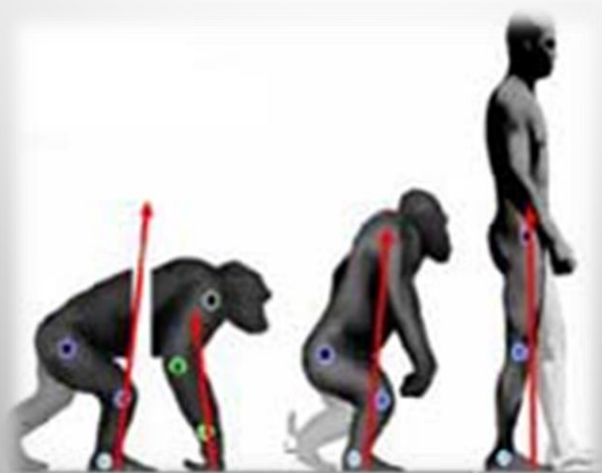
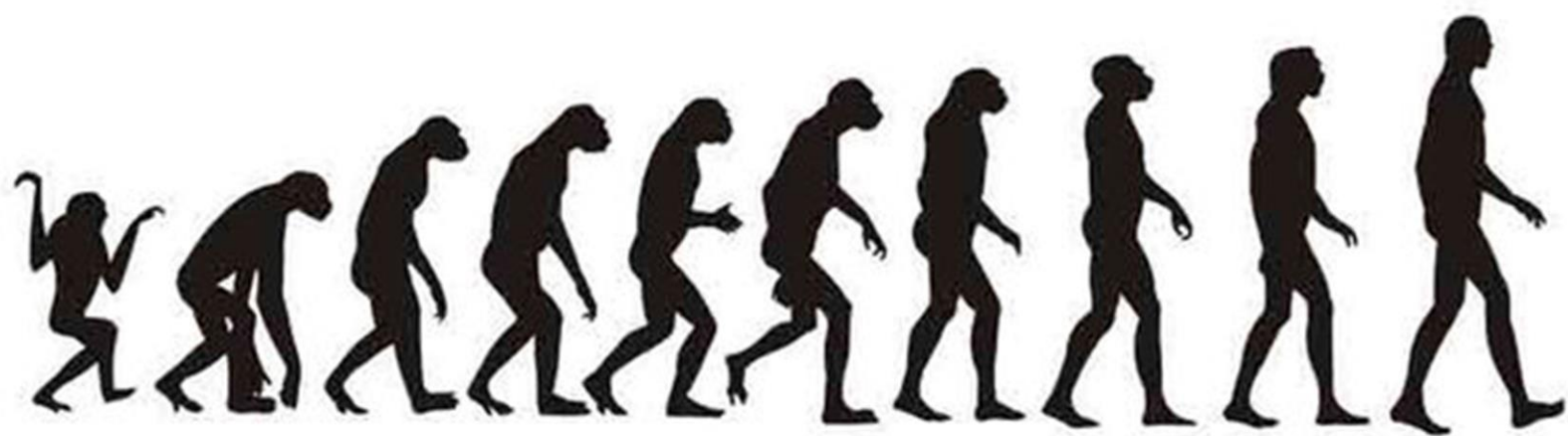


# Standing tall: Spinal alignment in adult spinal deformities

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**Consultant Spinal Surgeon**  
**Royal Orthopaedic Hospital**  
**BMI Healthcare**



# Life is a kyphosing event



# Spectrum of pathology



- Osteoporosis
- Discs and facet joints
- Failure of the spinal column



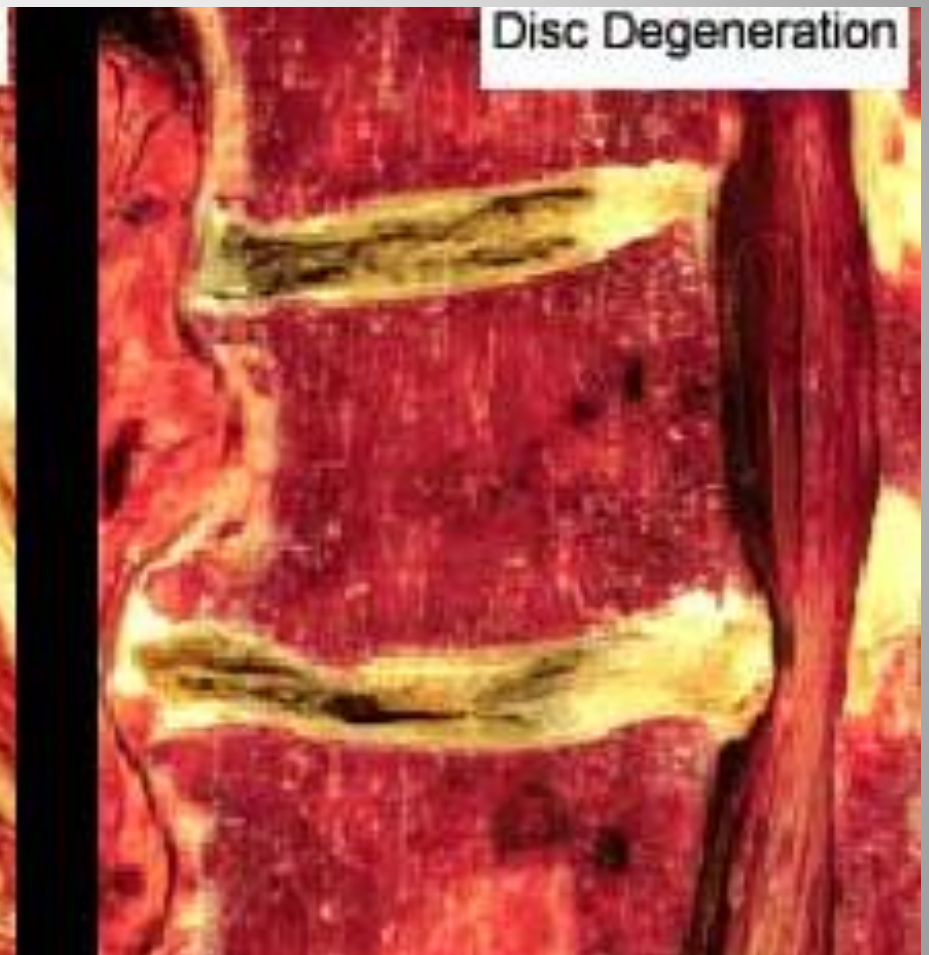
# Outline

## Standing tall by re-aligning the spine

- Consequences of advanced degenerative changes
- How do we measure the effects
- Case examples
- When to refer



# Disc degeneration

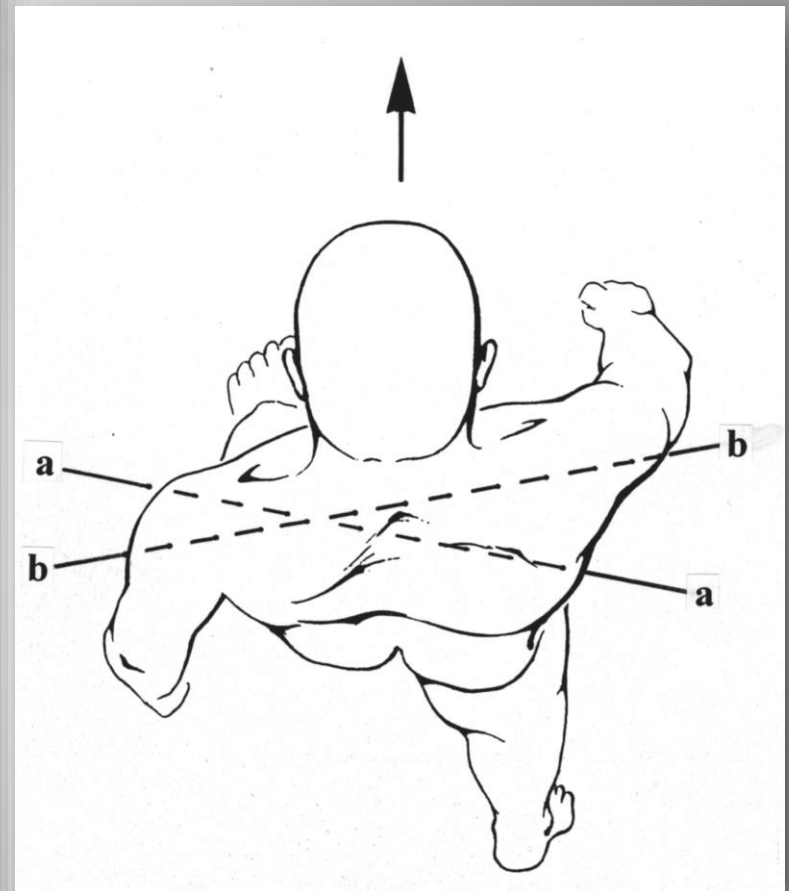
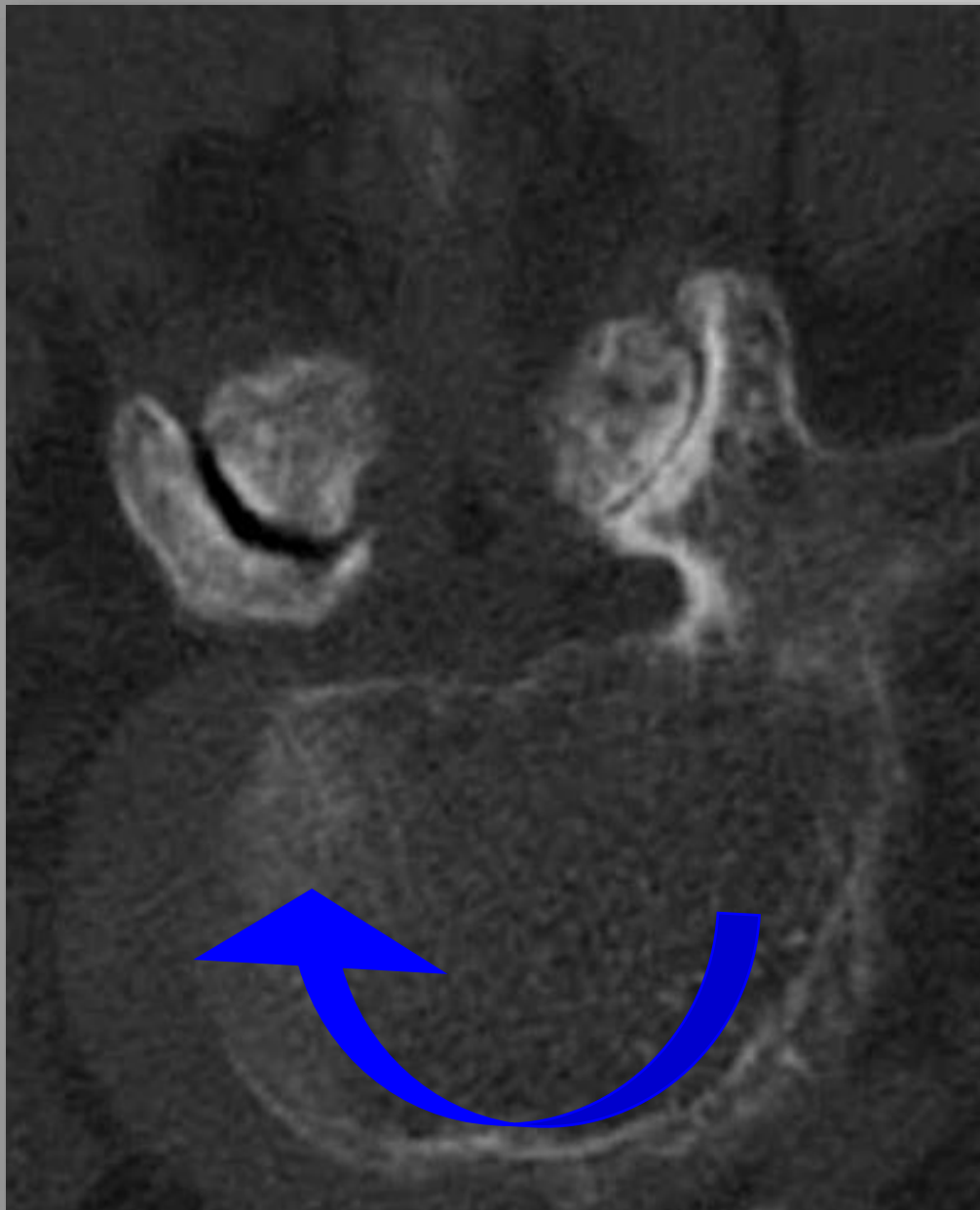


# Changes in the 'motion segment'



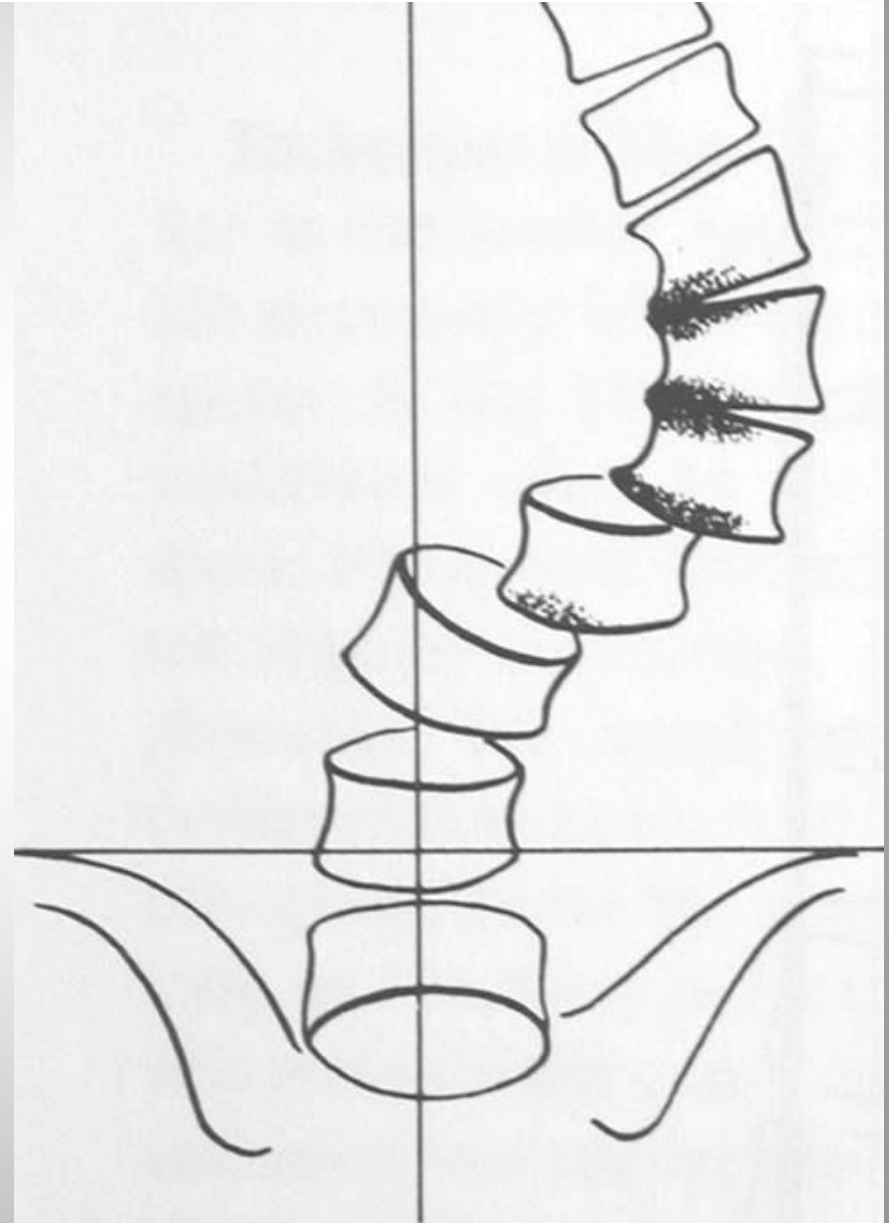
- resistance of the annulus to torque is reduced
- increased mechanical demand on posterior elements







# The coronal plane deformity



# The sagittal plane deformity





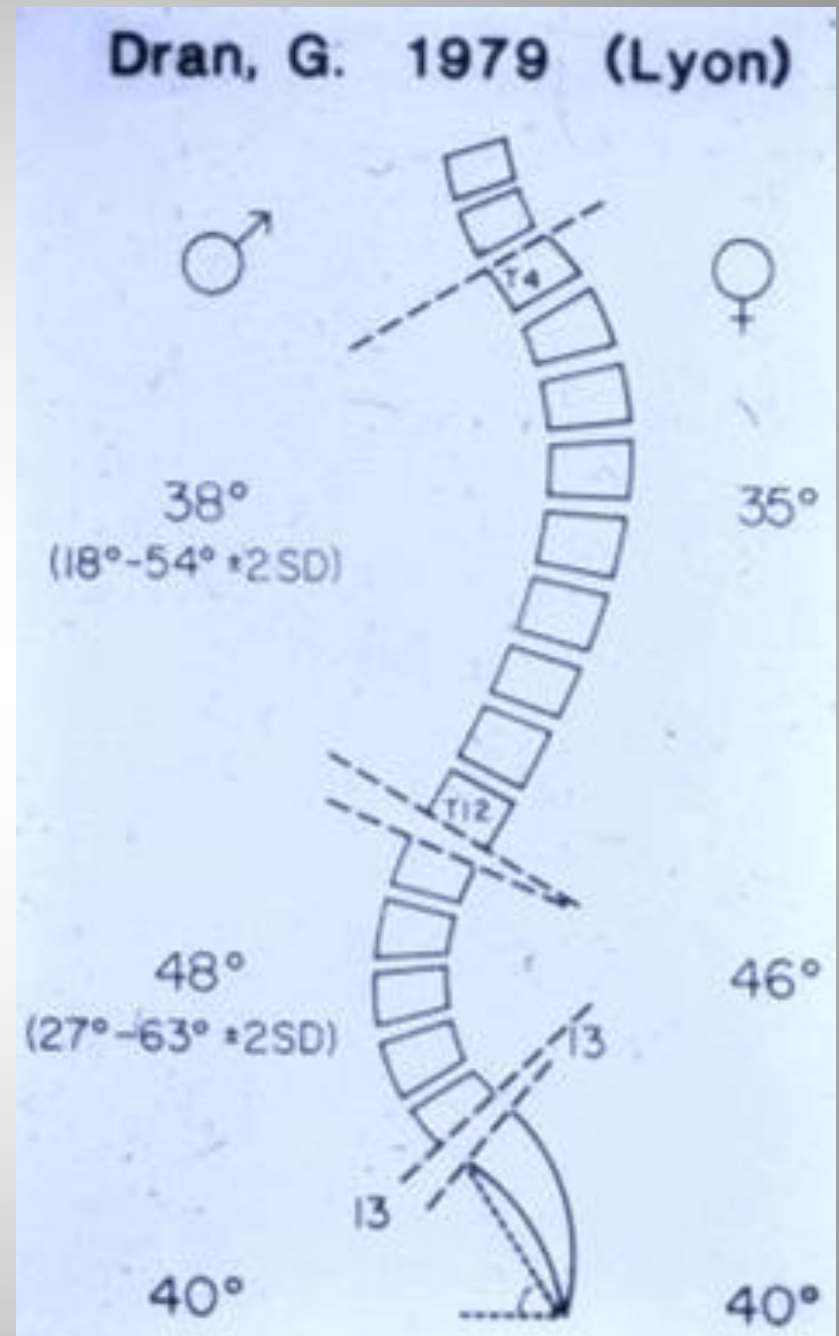


**Thoracic kyphosis:**

**$38^\circ \pm 18$**

**Lumbar lordosis:**

**$48^\circ \pm 18$**

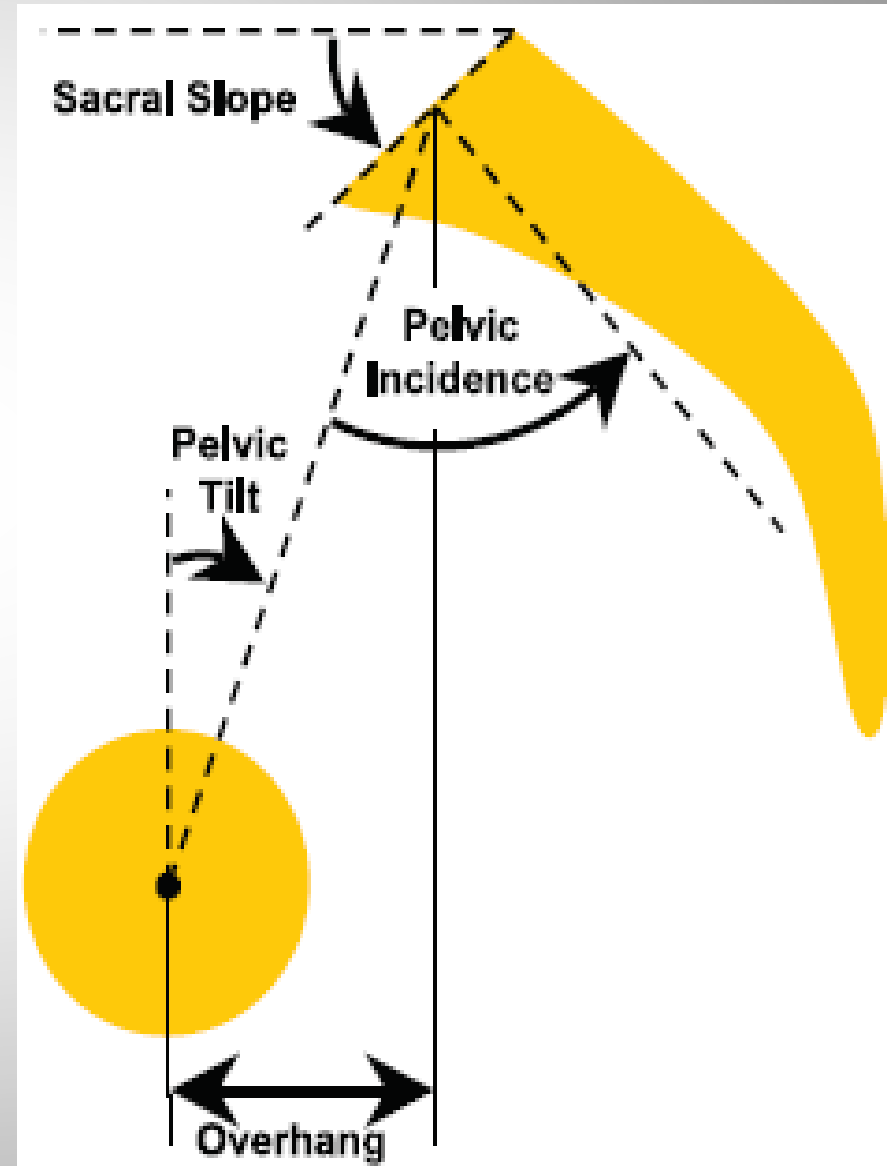




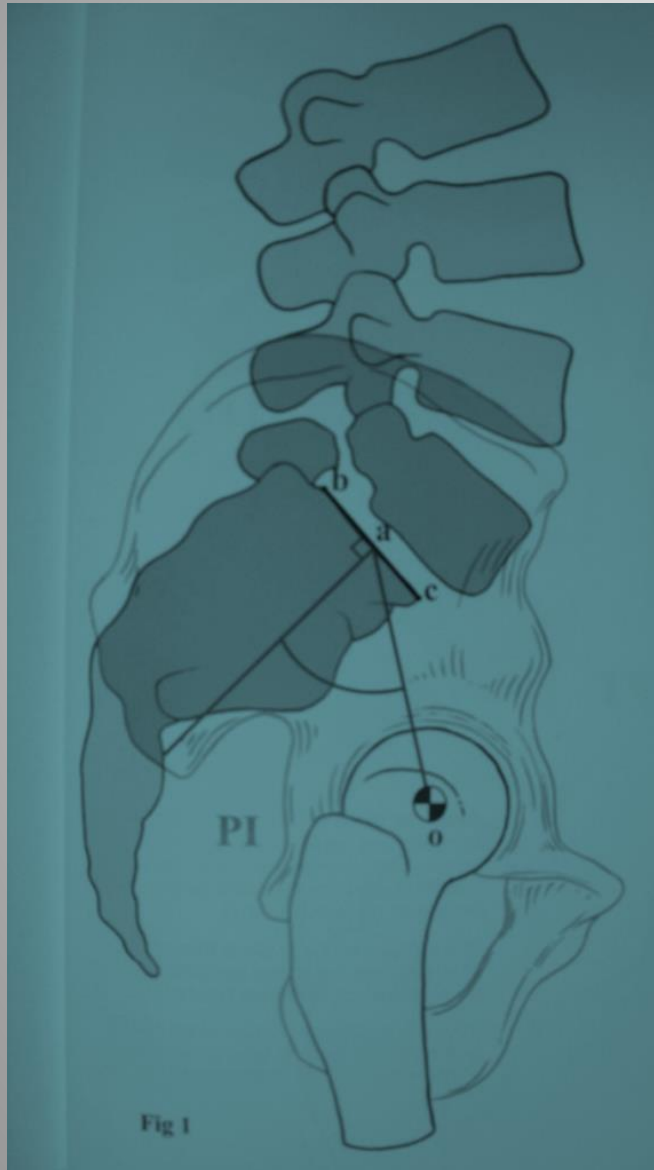


# Pelvic measures

- Sacral slope (SS)
- Pelvic tilt (PT)
- Pelvic incidence (PI)

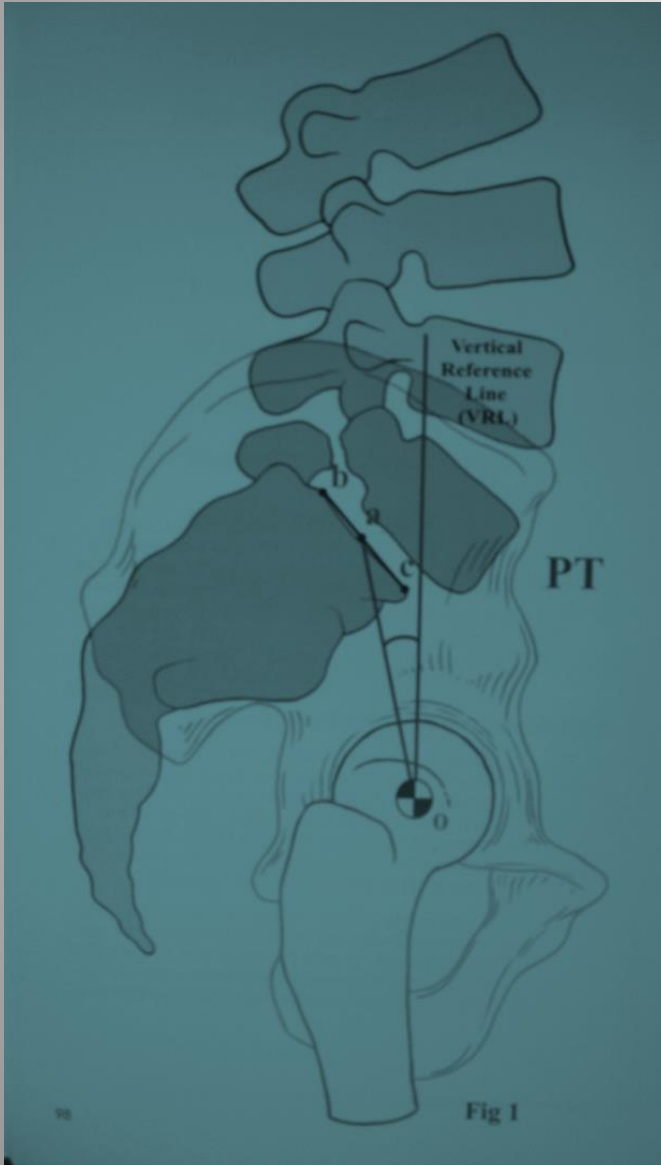


# Pelvic incidence



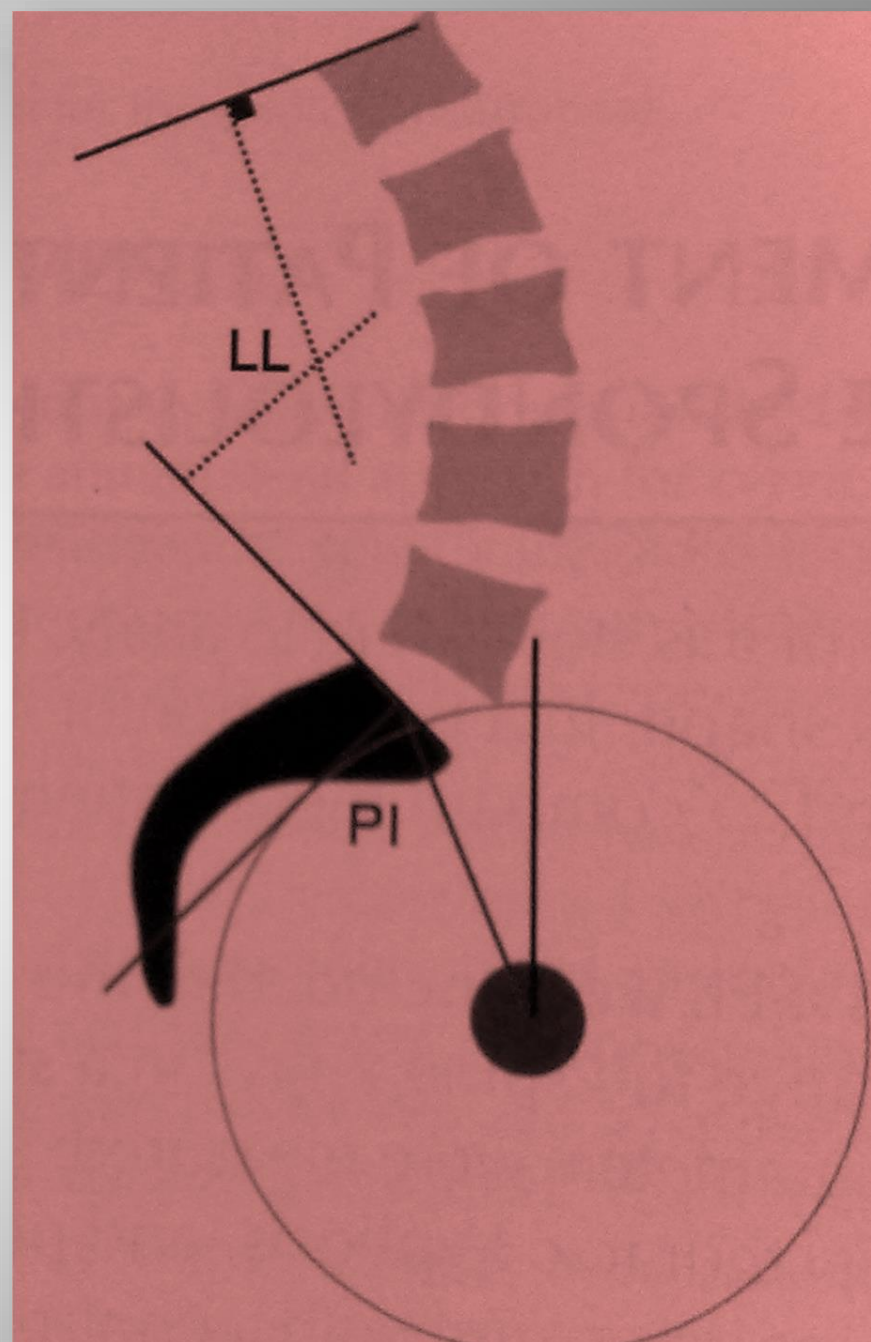
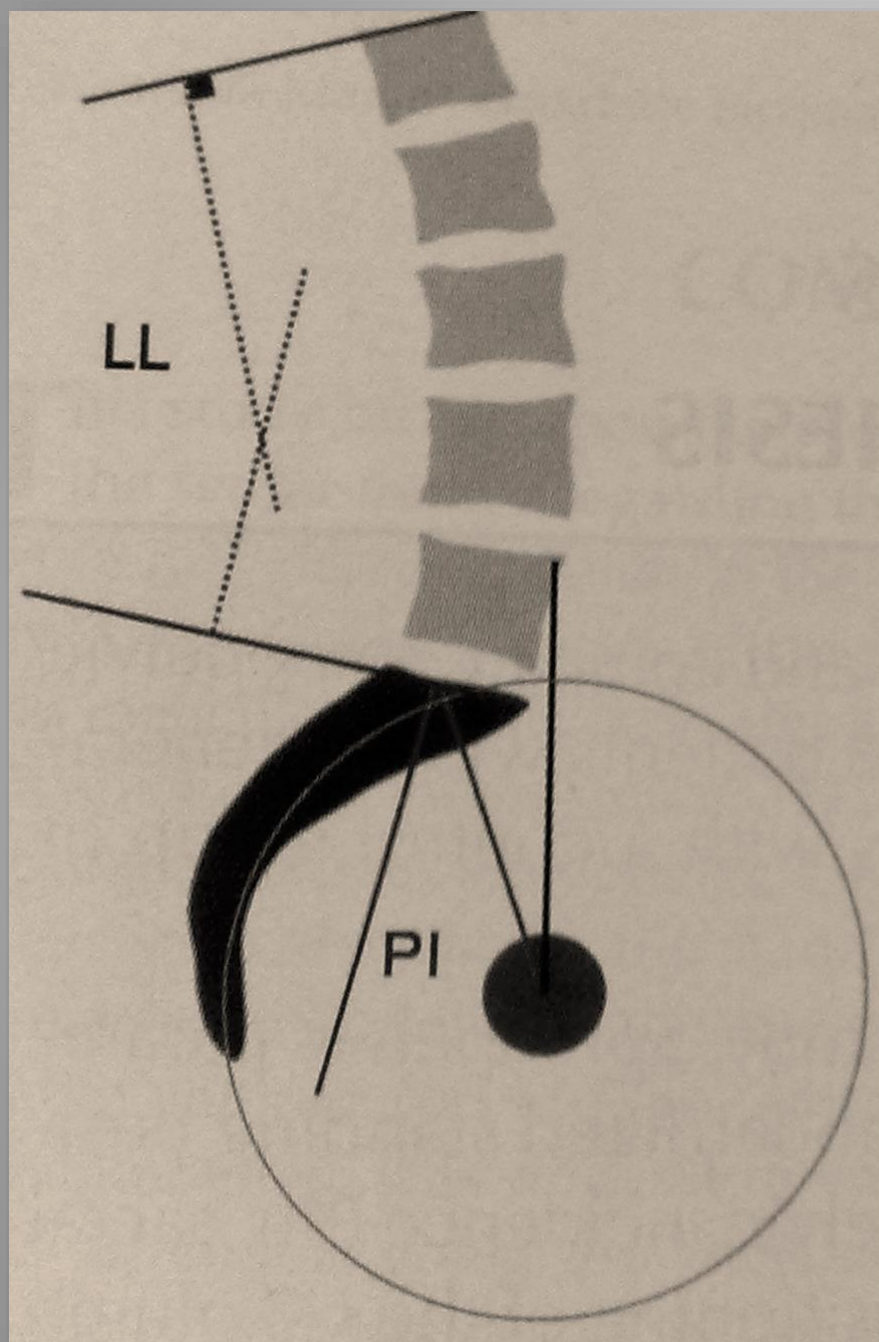
- Key parameter
- Perpendicular to:  
the middle of the sacral end plate  
mid-point of femoral heads
- $55^{\circ} \pm 10.6^{\circ}$  (Vialle JBJS 2005)

# Significance of pelvic tilt



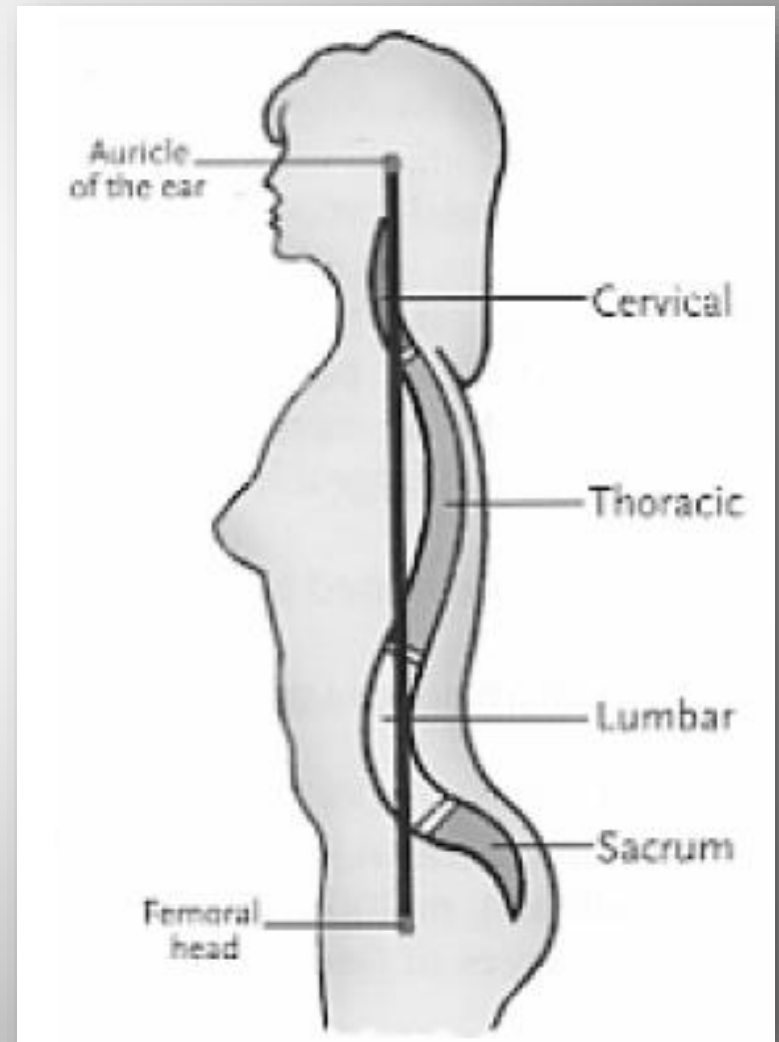
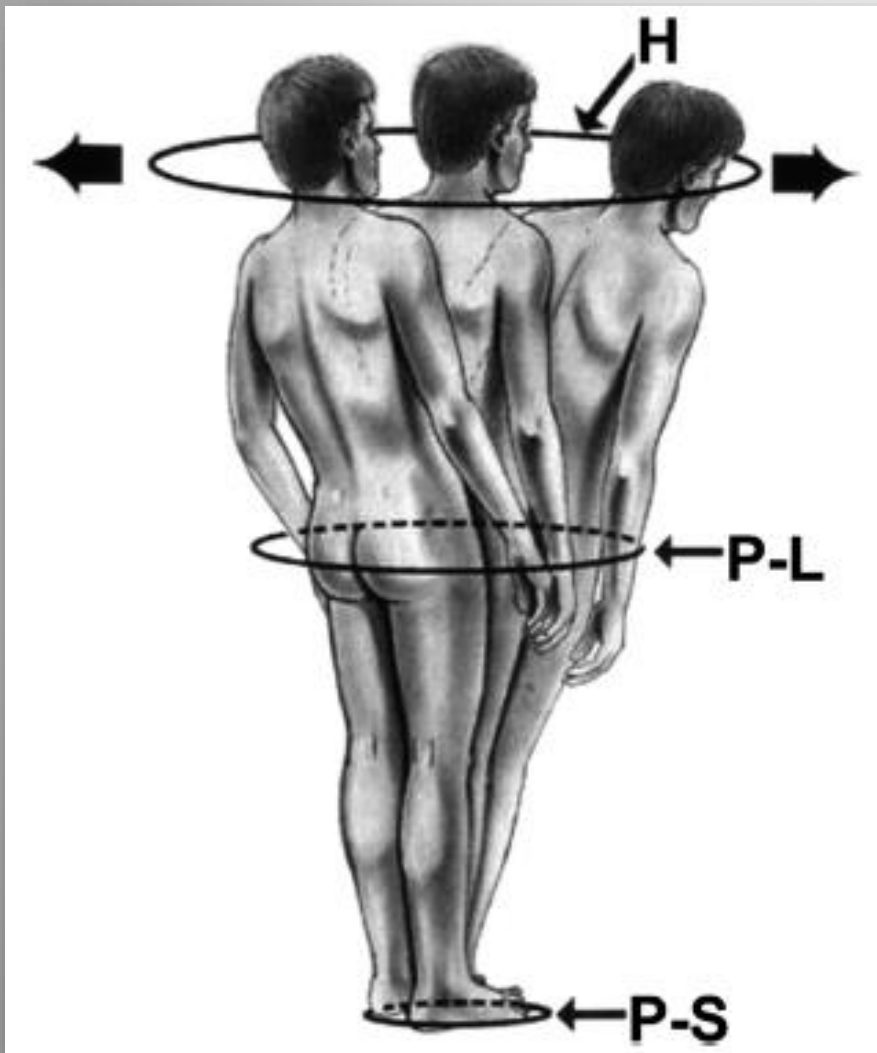
- Centre of gravity over LL
- Maintains sacral plate posterior to the hip
- Increases with age



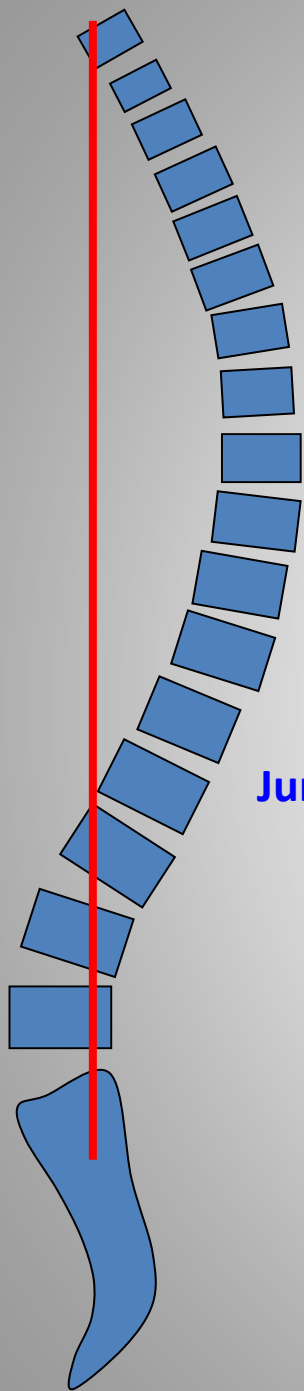


# Cone of economy

J. Dubousset

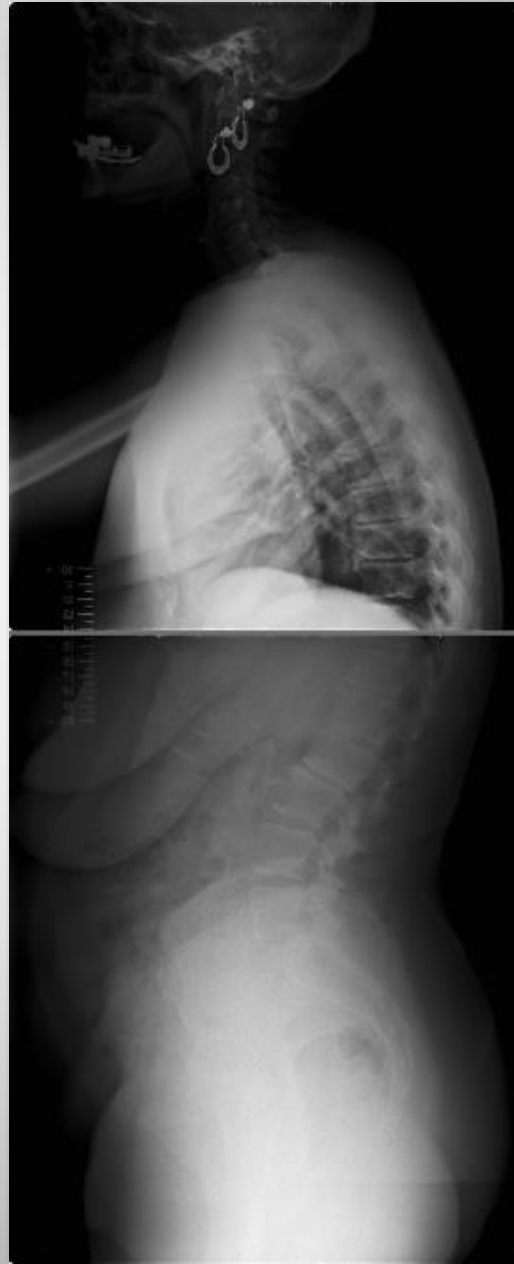


# Type 1: Non-harmonious spine



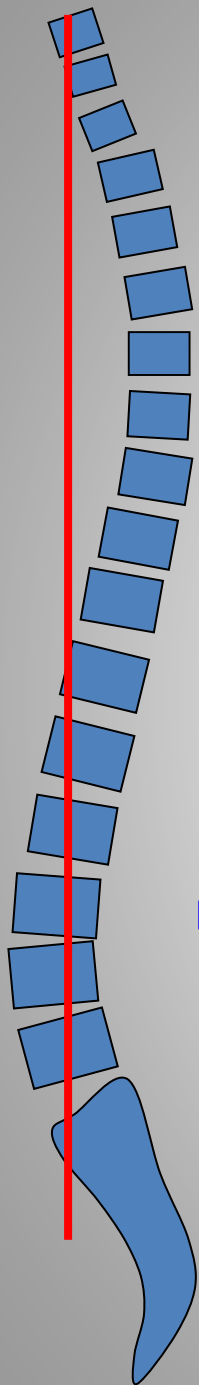
Thoraco lumbar disc

Junctional listhesis

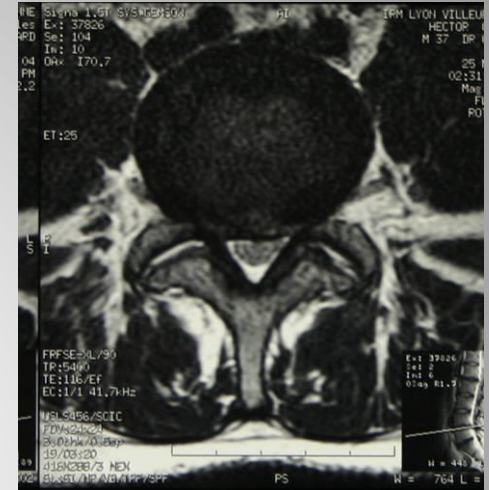




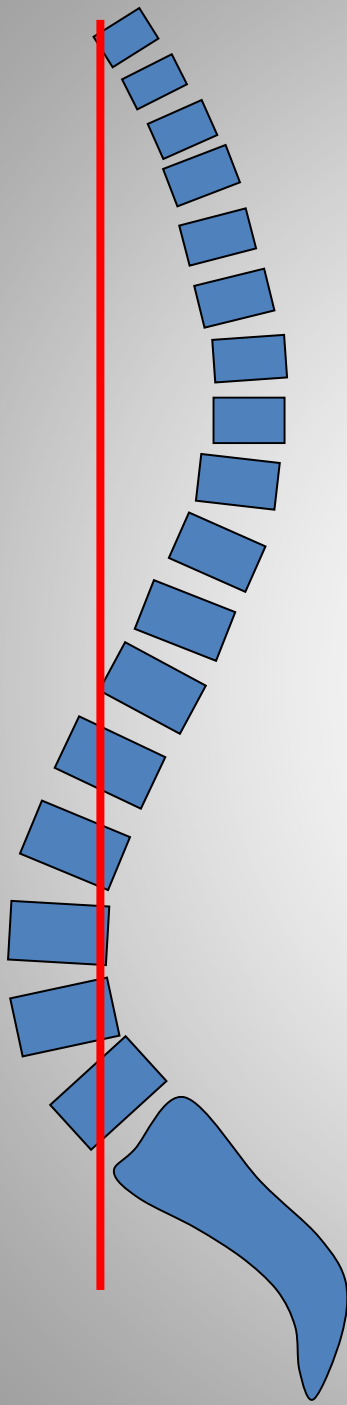
## Type 2: Harmonious but Flat Back



Early disc degeneration



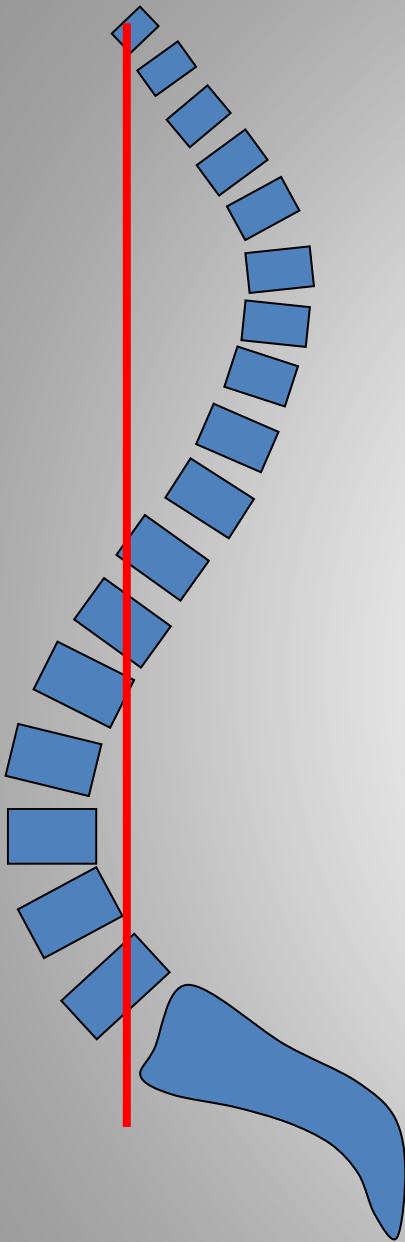




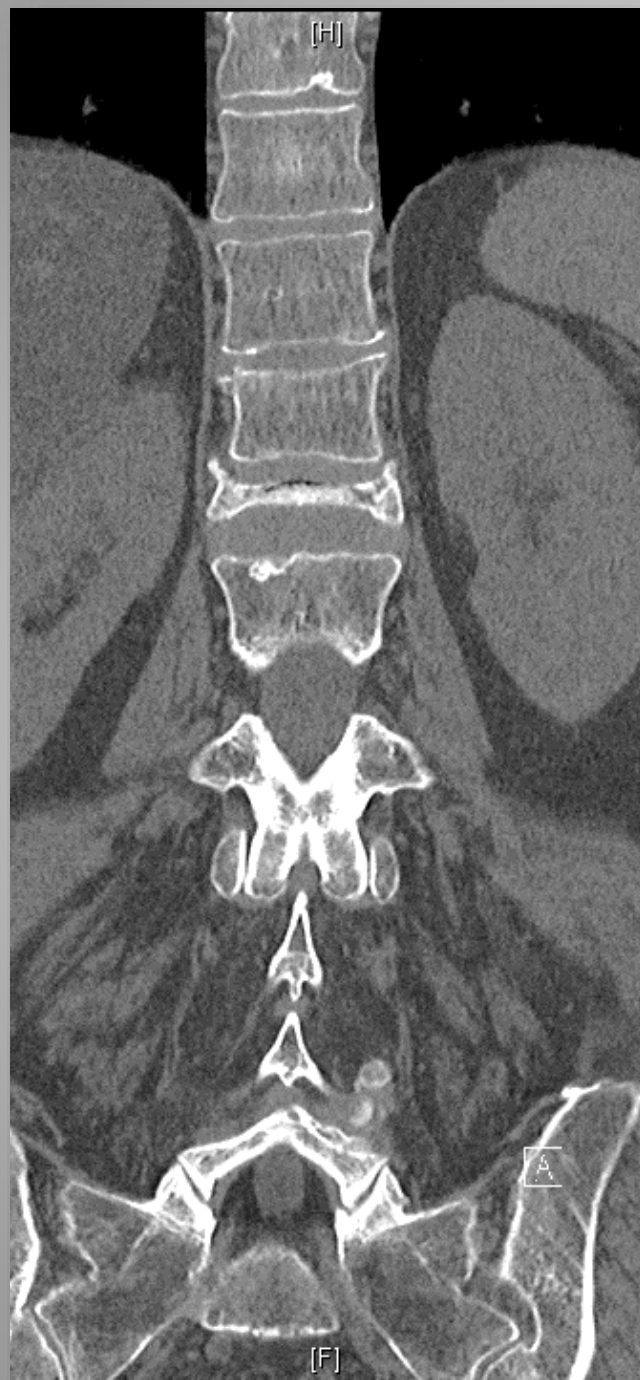
**Type 3: The most harmonious  
("probably a good back")**

## Type 4: Harmonious but hyper-curved.

- When young: very strong
  - High PI
  - Good lordosis
- With aging
  - will lose lordosis
  - pelvic tilt increases to compensate for anterior imbalance



**Lumbar stenosis + spondylolisthesis**



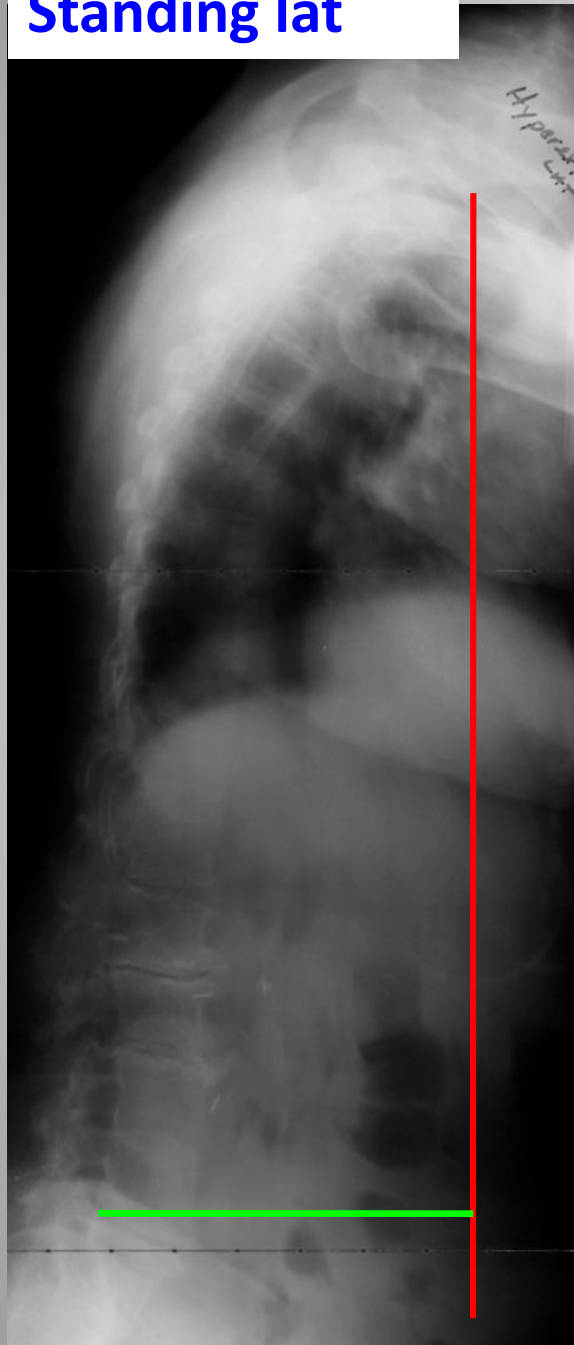
# Fixed or flexible sagittal deformity





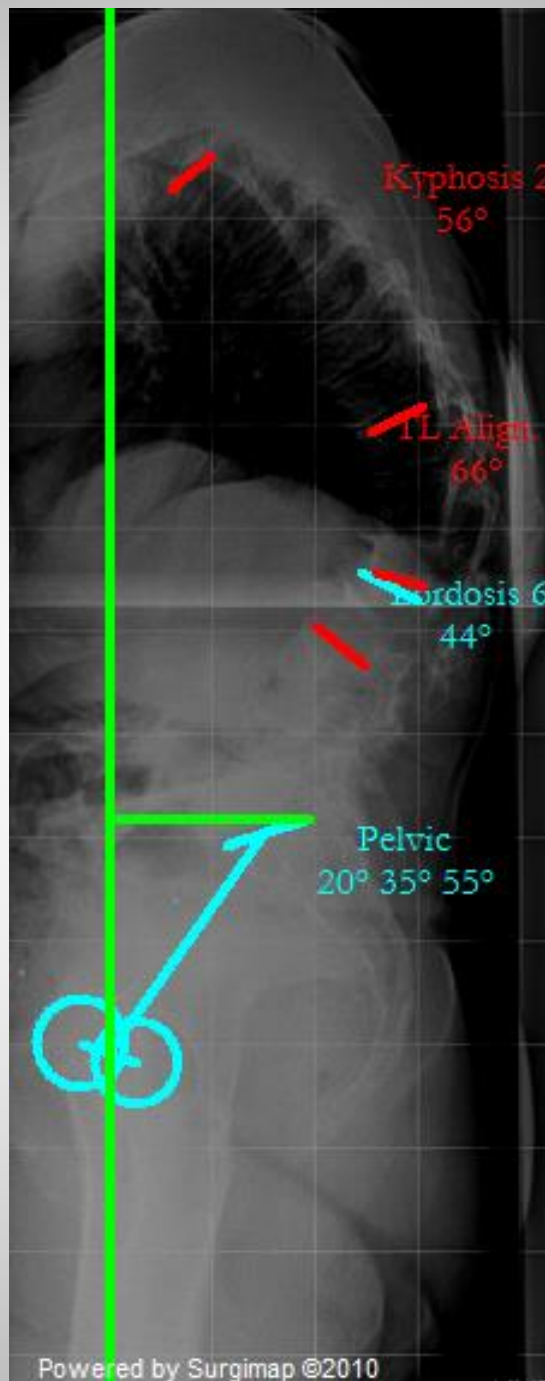
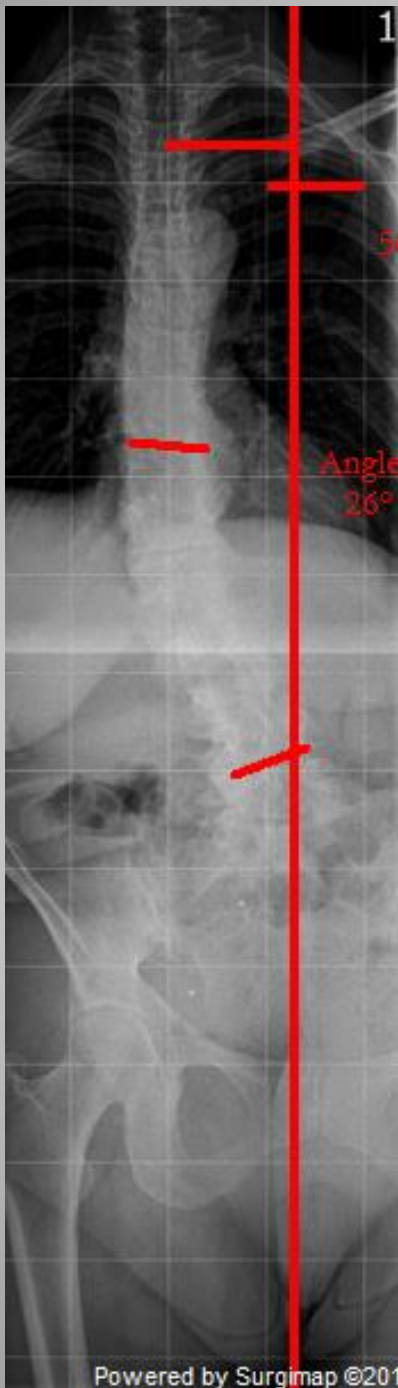


**Standing lat**



**Hyperext lat**





59 / F

AP Cobb 26°

CSL 7 cm

Pelvic:

PI 55°

SS 20°

PT 35°

LL 44°

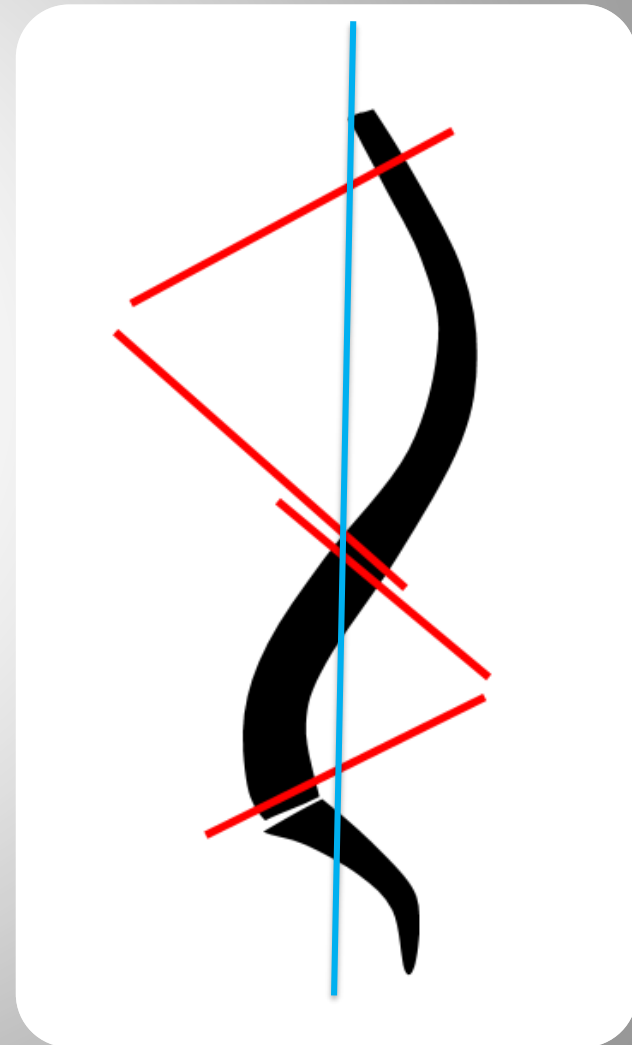
**TL 66°**

TK 56°

SVA 11 cm

# Aims of intervention

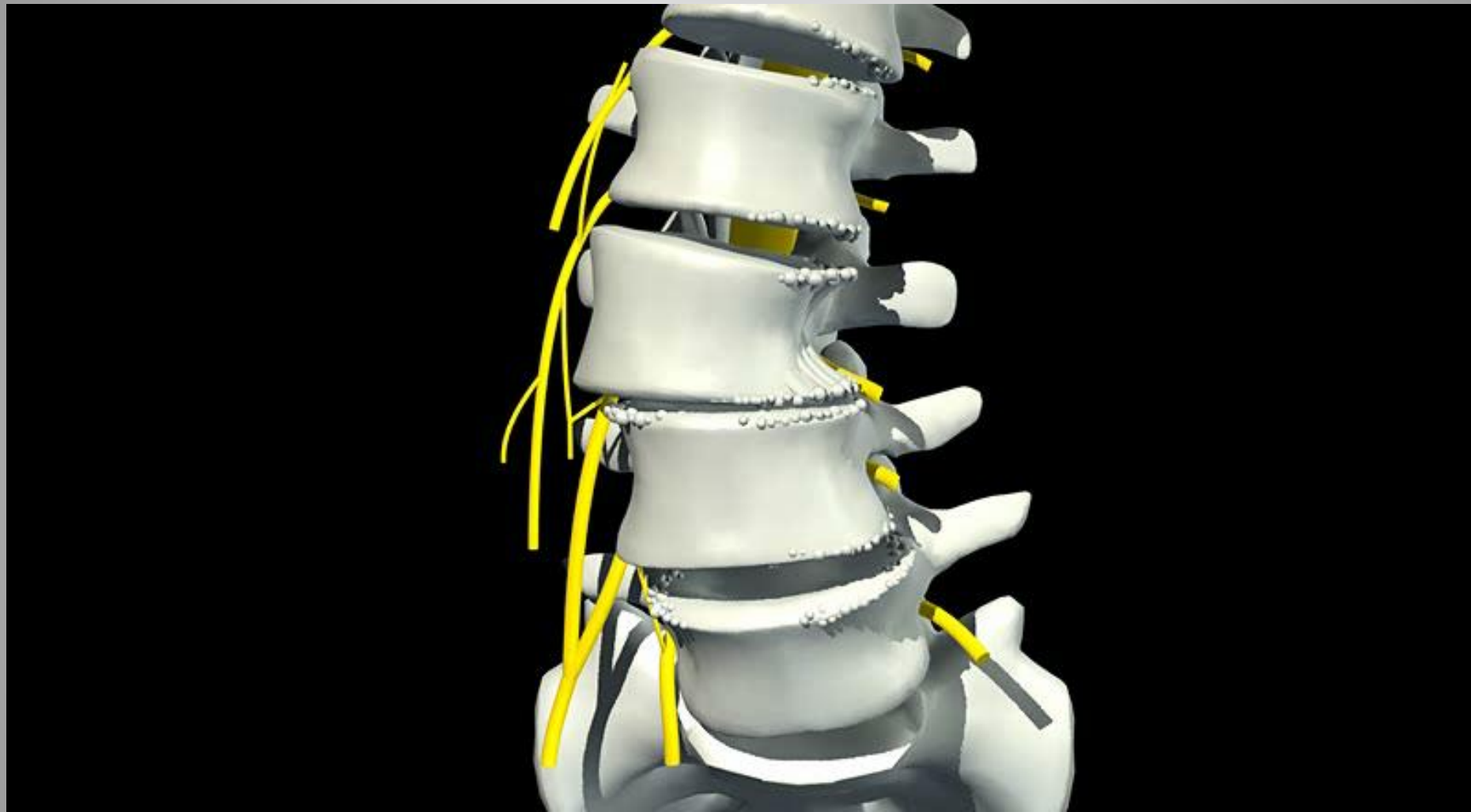
- Restore the lordosis
- Restore the plumb line
- Restore the 'curves'





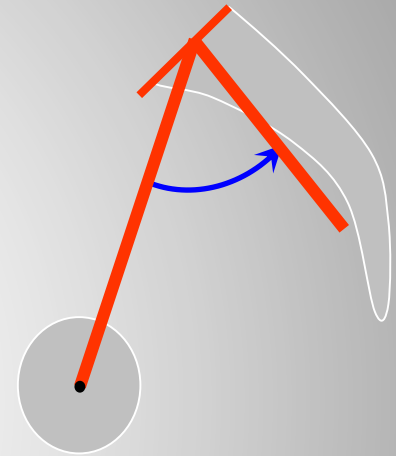
# Adult Deformity: Surgical goals

- Normalize & balance contours
- Fuse the least number of segments
- Neural decompression
- Obtain solid biological fusion



# Adaptation of lordosis

- Excise facet joints
- 'Open' degenerate disc spaces
- Osteotomies
- Measure the PI, and build in the lordosis



$$LL = PI \pm 9^{\circ}$$





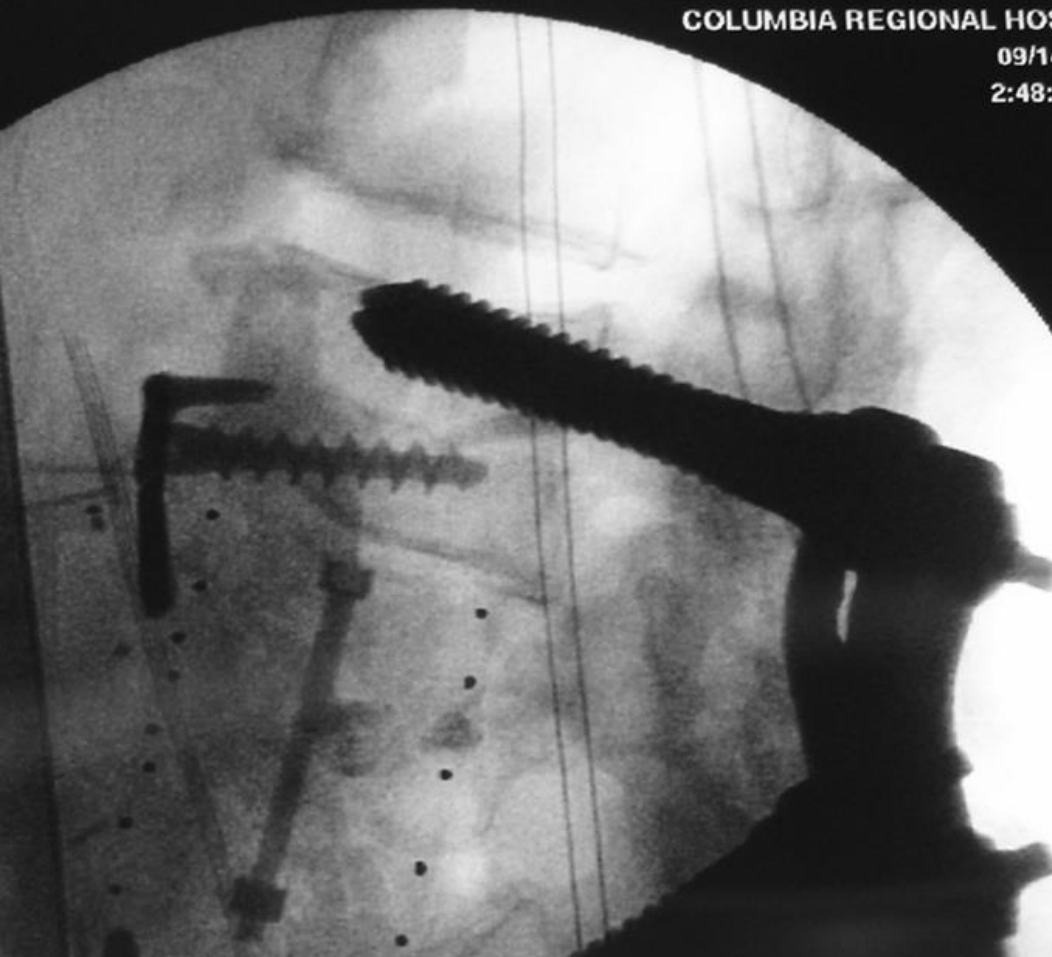
# Surgical reconstruction: Adult Deformity

- Major operation
- Anaesthetic input early
  - discuss mortality and morbidity
- 2 spinal surgeons
- Spinal cord monitoring
- ITU, Physiotherapy





**MM**  
**86Y**

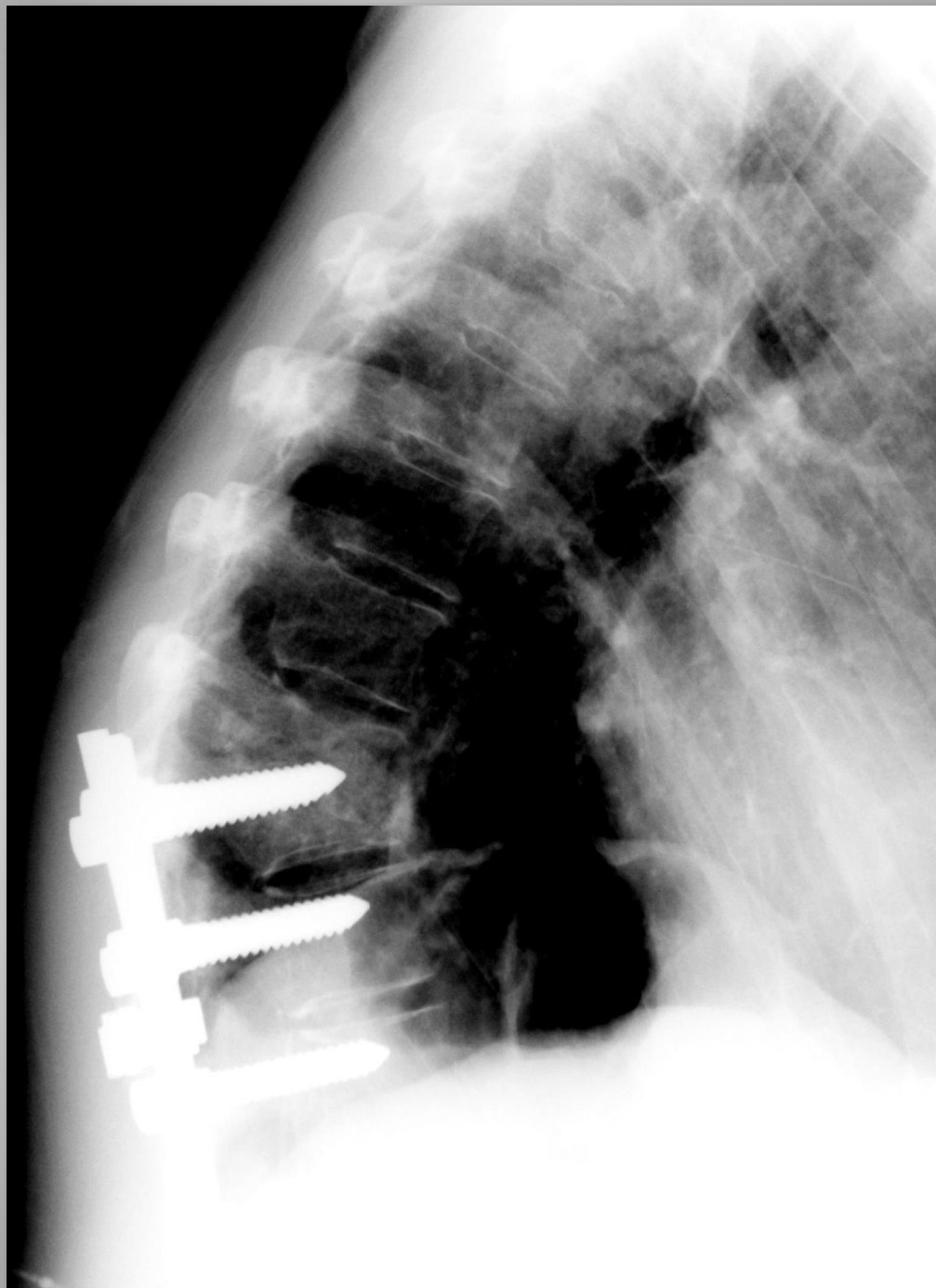






# Problems

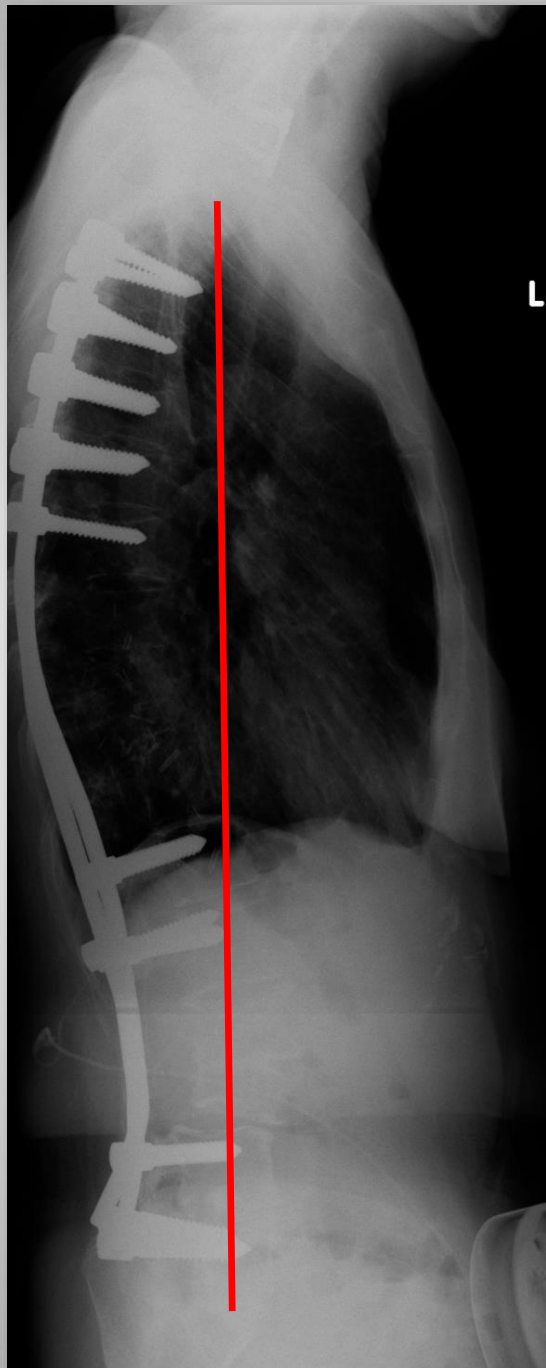
- Realistic expectations
- Medical co-morbidities
- Osteoporosis
- Junctional problems



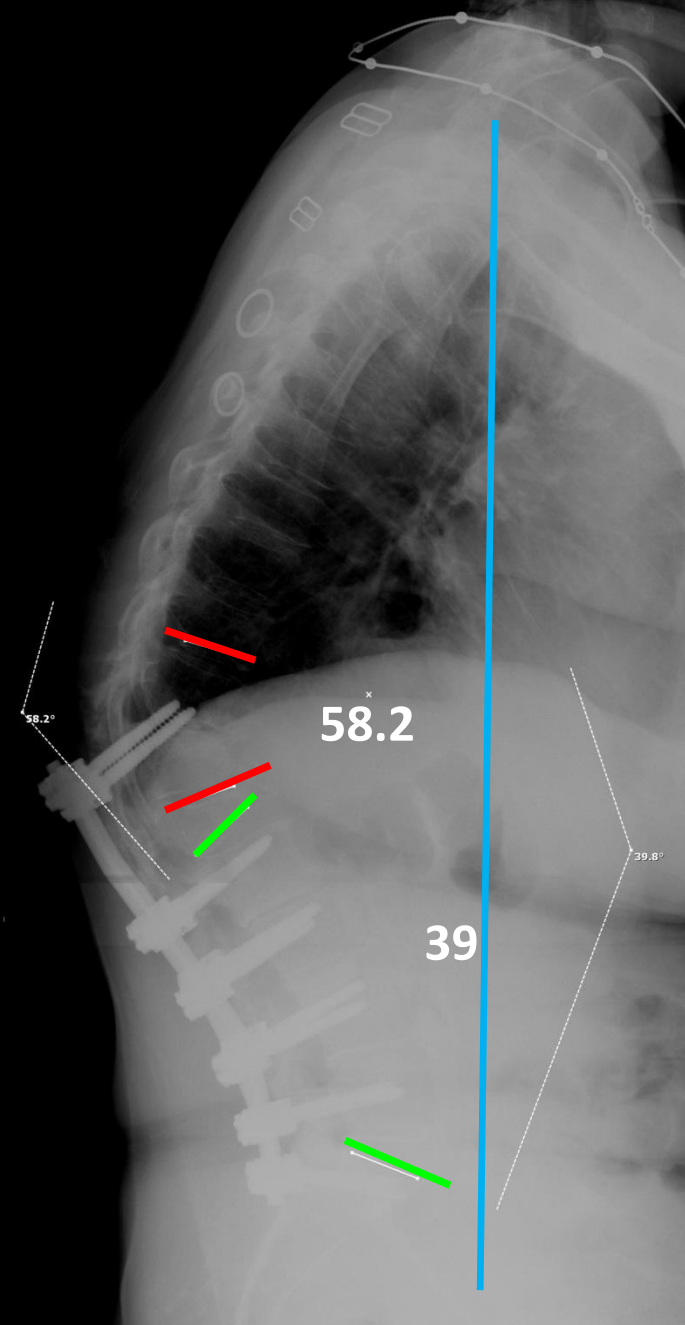




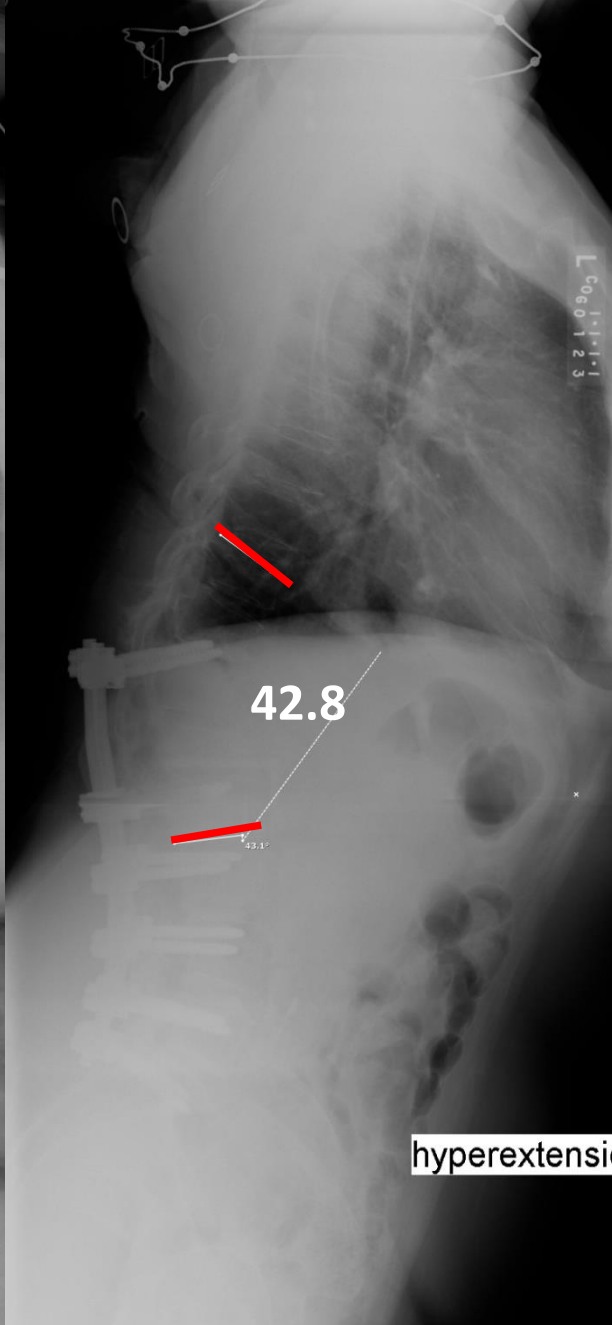




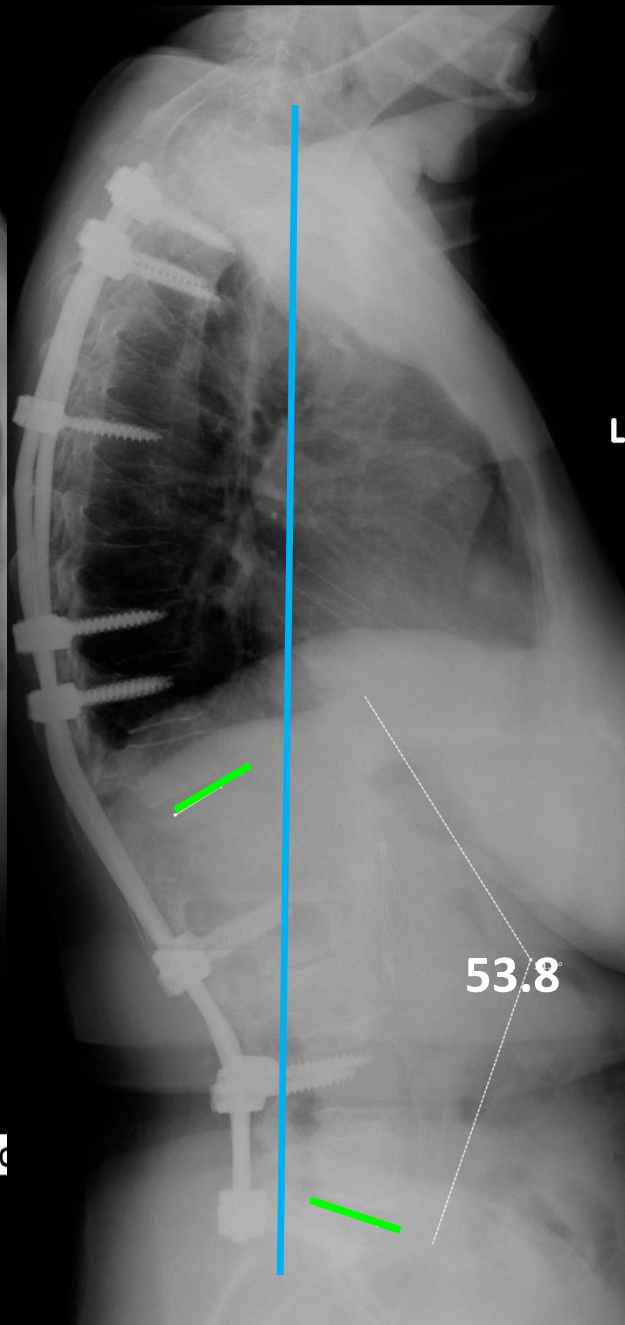




Pre-op standing lateral



Hyper-extension lateral



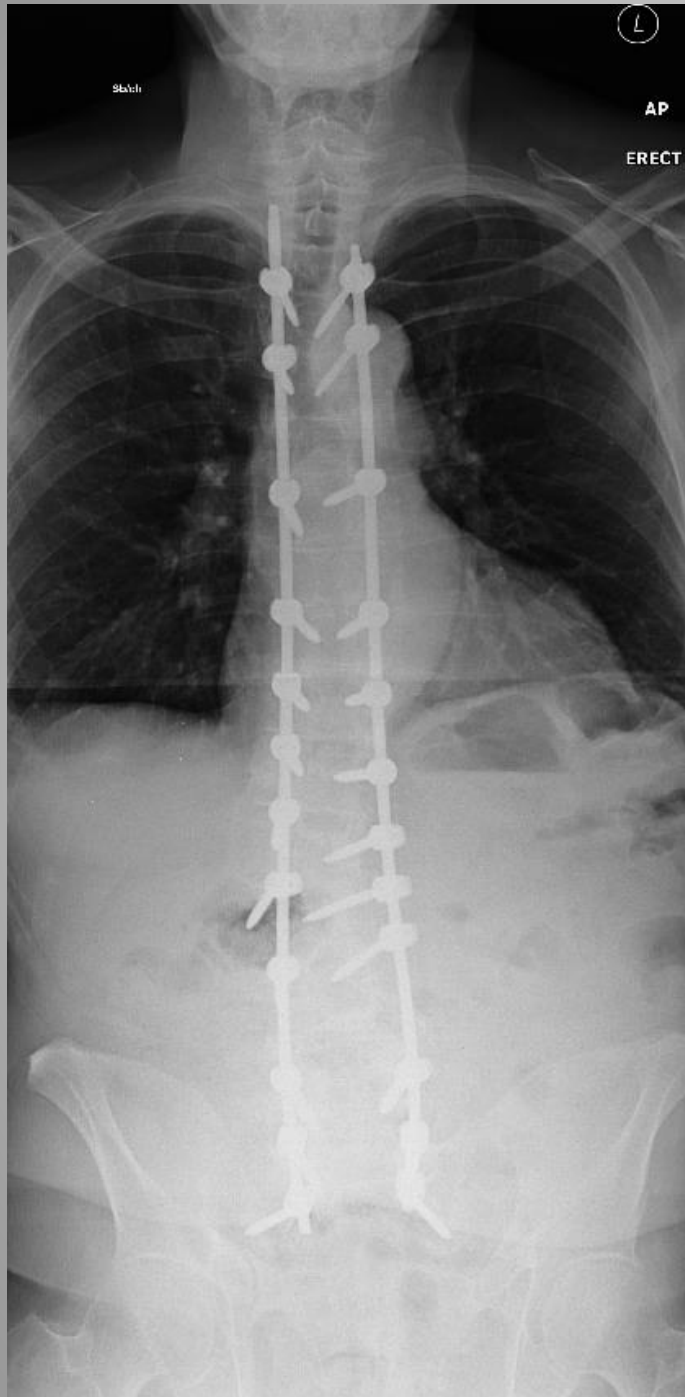
Post-op standing lateral

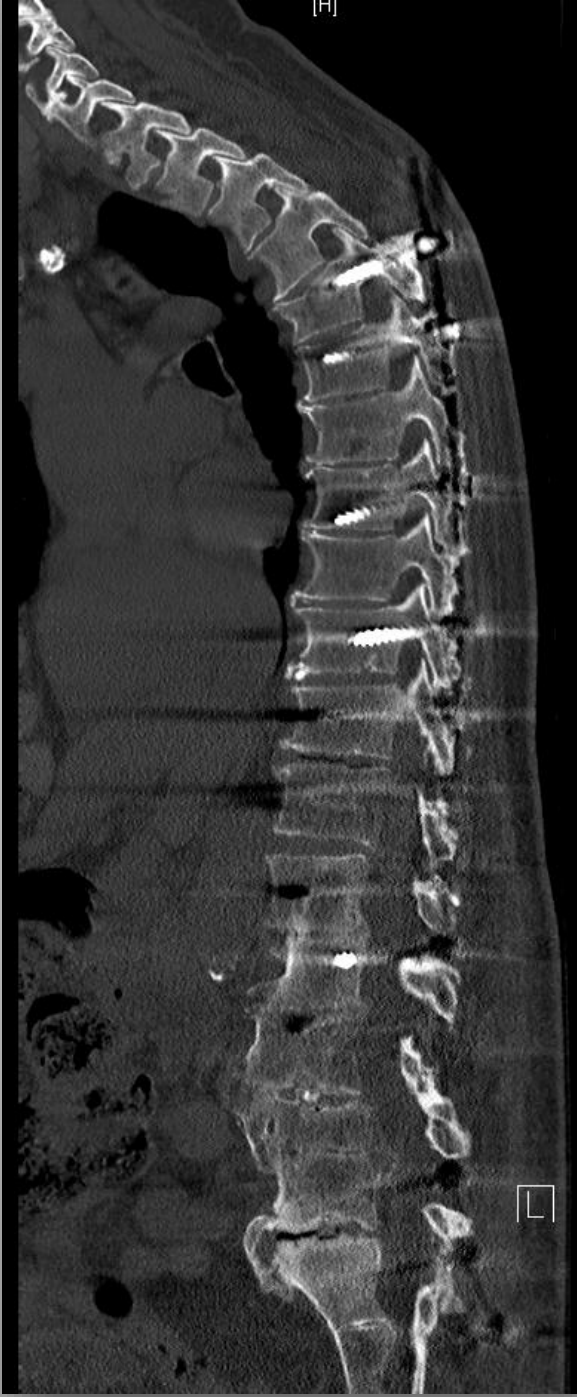


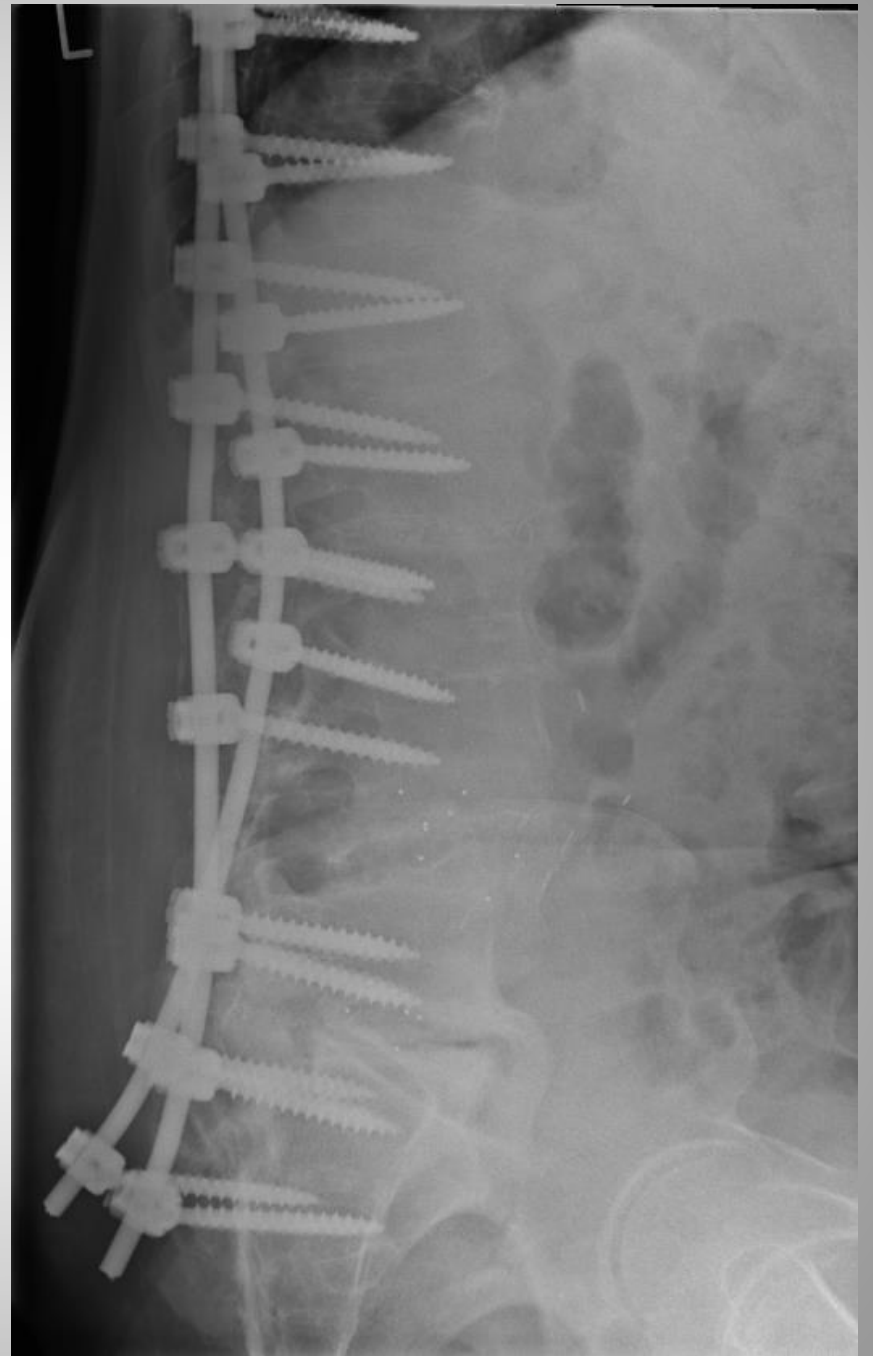
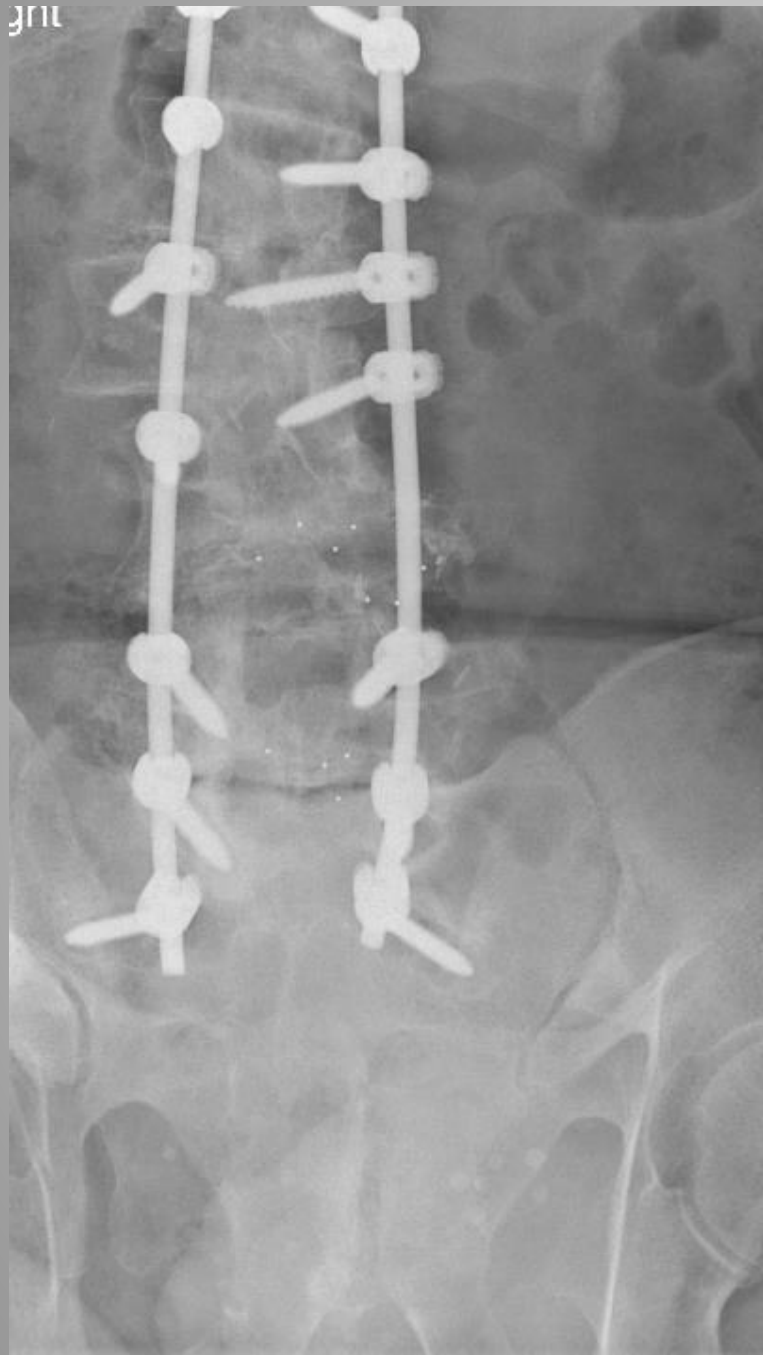






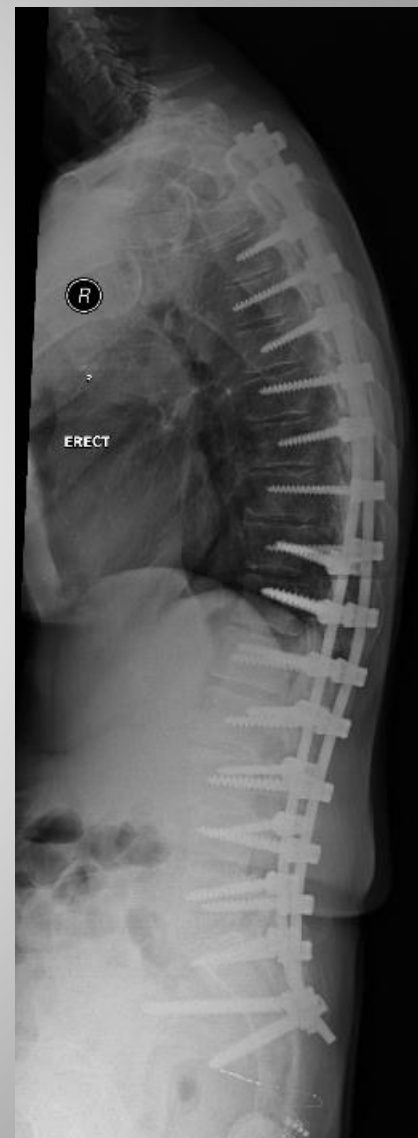






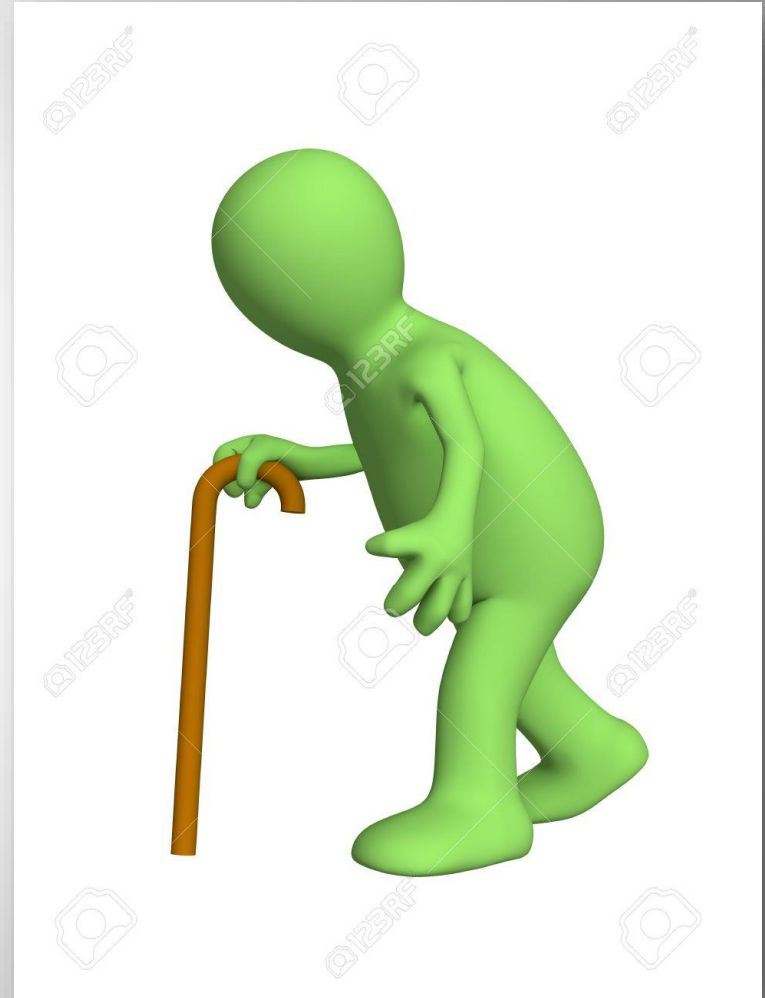






# When to refer

- Unable to stand upright
- New 'forward gaze' issues
- Static or dynamic 'stoop'
- Loss of 'height'



# When to refer

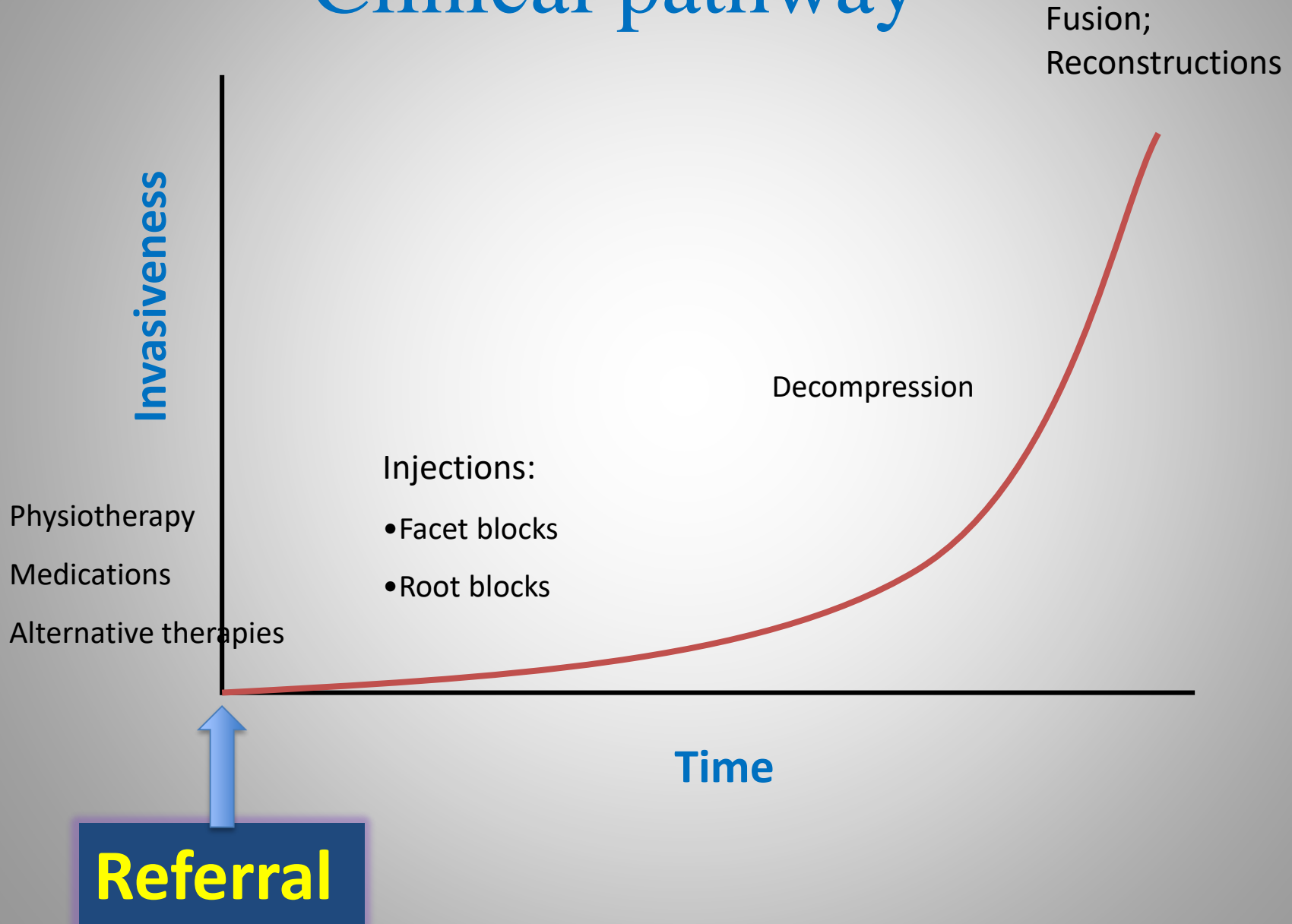
- Axial back pain
- Radiation: thigh pain; claudication; groin pain
- Myotomal radiation
- Refer early.....not all need surgery





- Active
- Back pain
- 'Leans over' after a long walk
- Difficulty in 'straightening up' when standing up from sitting

# Clinical pathway





# Never too early!

- Not everyone needs an operation
- Understanding expectations
- Tailor management
- Review over time



mehtaspine

