

Scoliosis used to be treated with casts and traction



Now, we use casts and traction



Halo Traction as an Adjunct to Scoliosis Treatment



Gary Larson Approach to Halo Traction



Like most veterinary students, Doreen breezes through chapter 9.

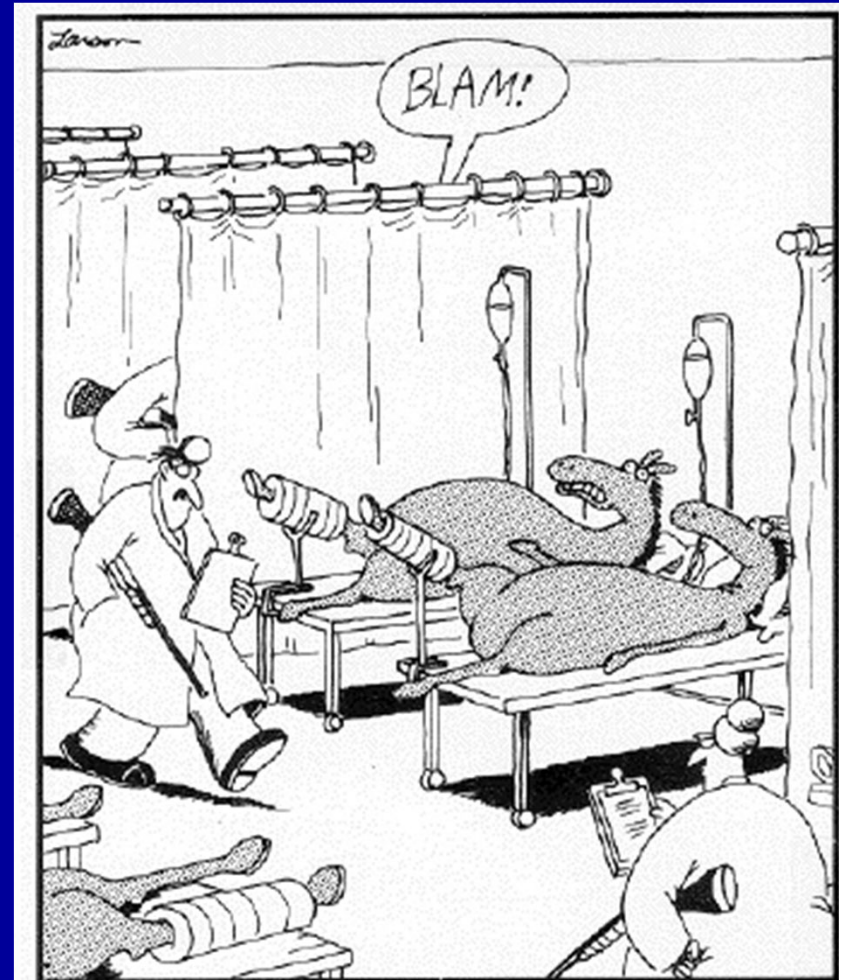
It is really easy to decide

Problem

- Severe Curve
- Poor Nutrition
- Poor Lung Function
- Young age
- Dystrophic NF
- Complex Social Situation ...
- Can't Figure Out What to Do
- Bad Kyphosis
- Need lots of consults that you cannot get

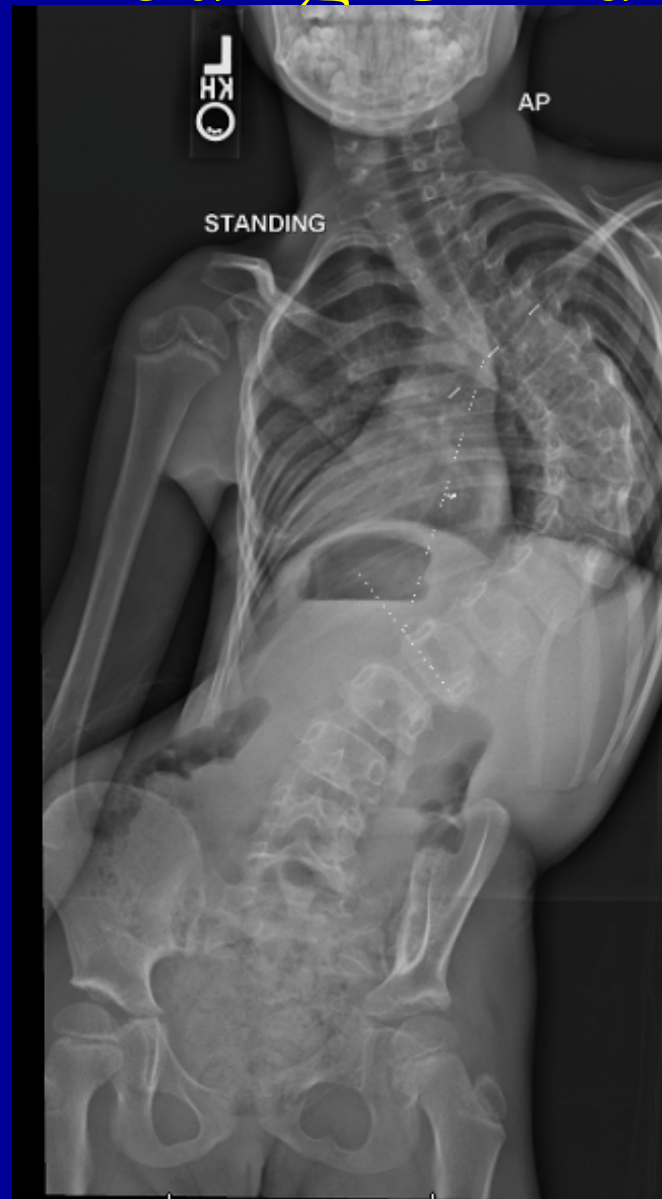
Treatment

- ✓ Halo Traction
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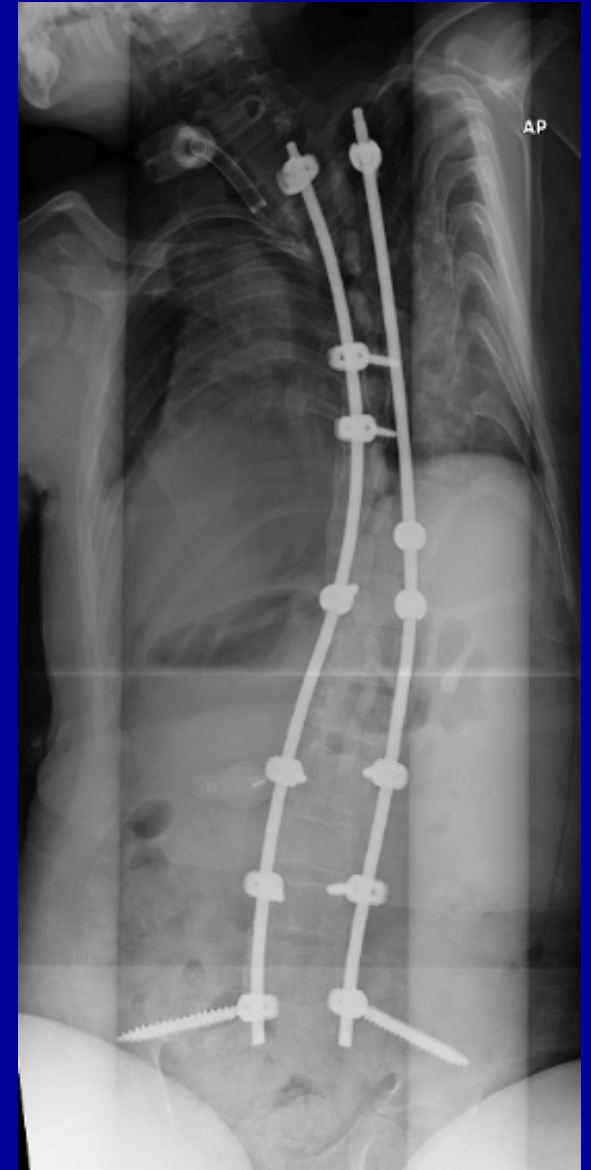
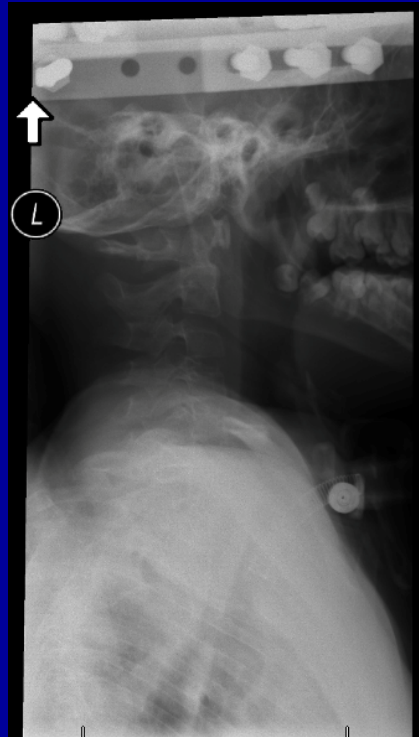
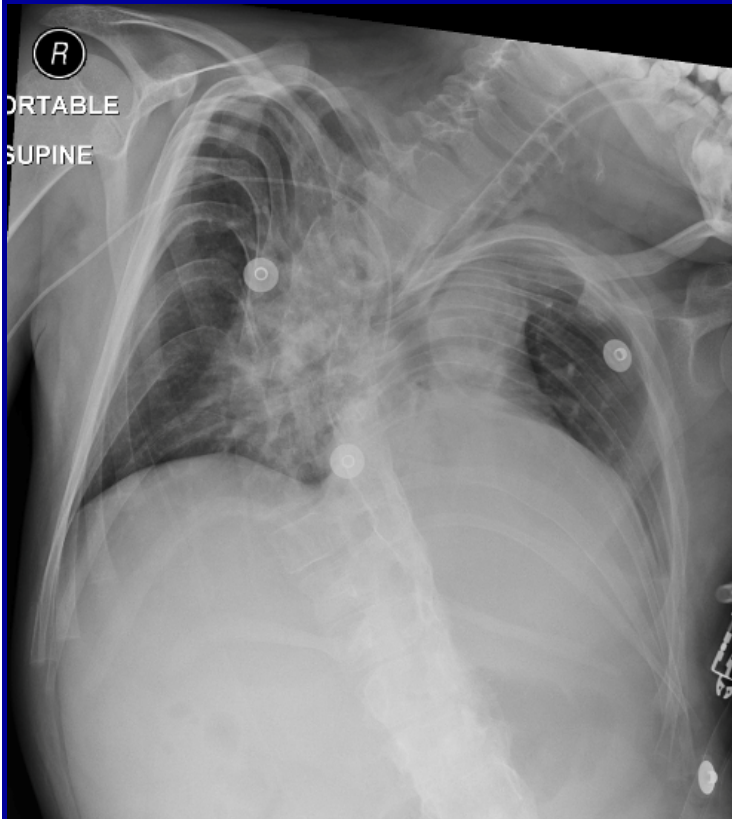


Horse hospitals

Large Curves – Especially in Young Children



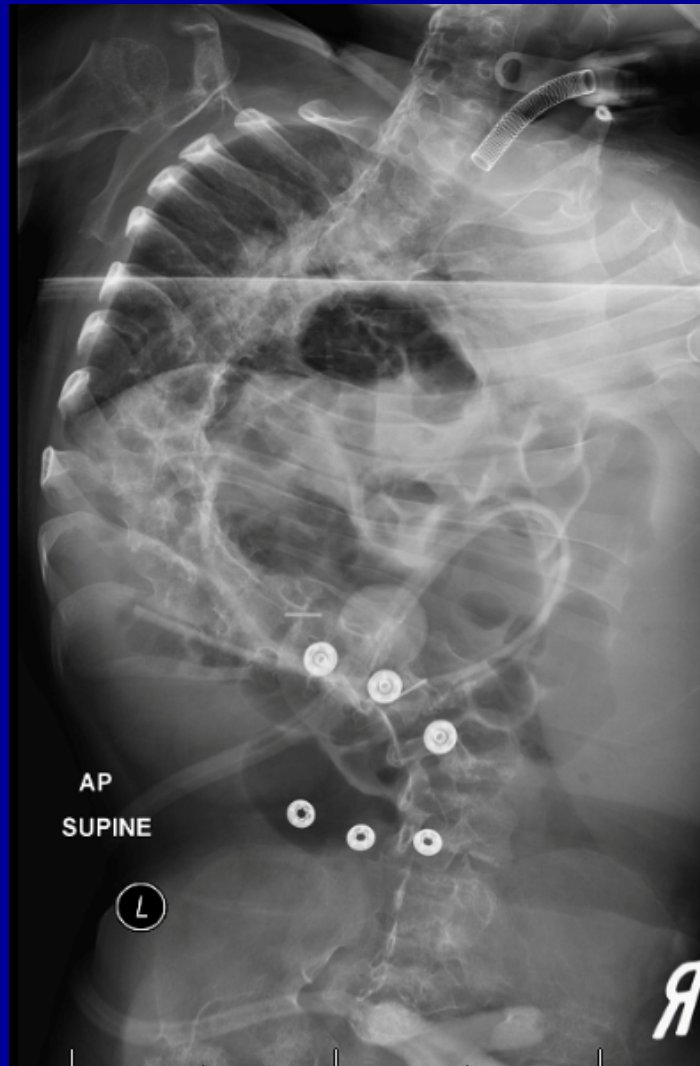
Pulmonary Failure



Cannot Get Nutrition Controlled



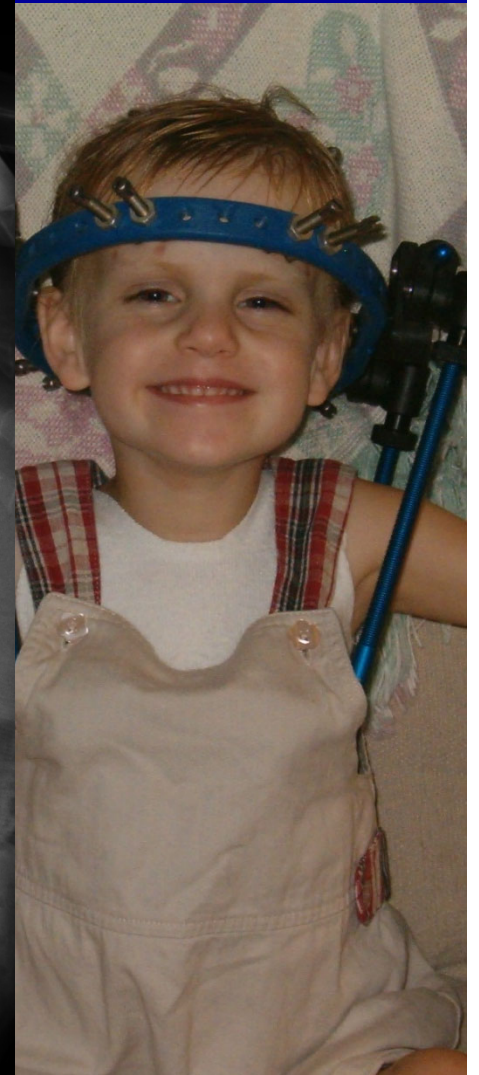
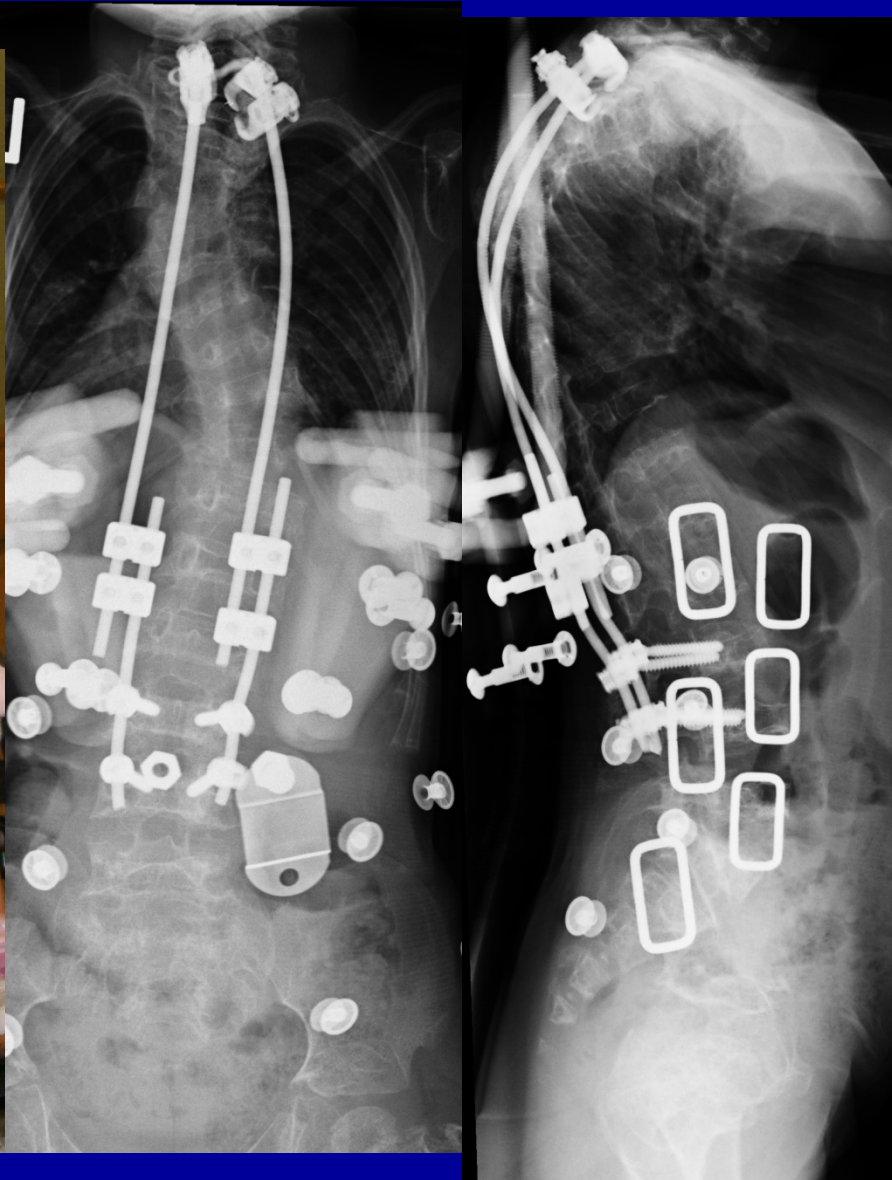
Hard to know what to do



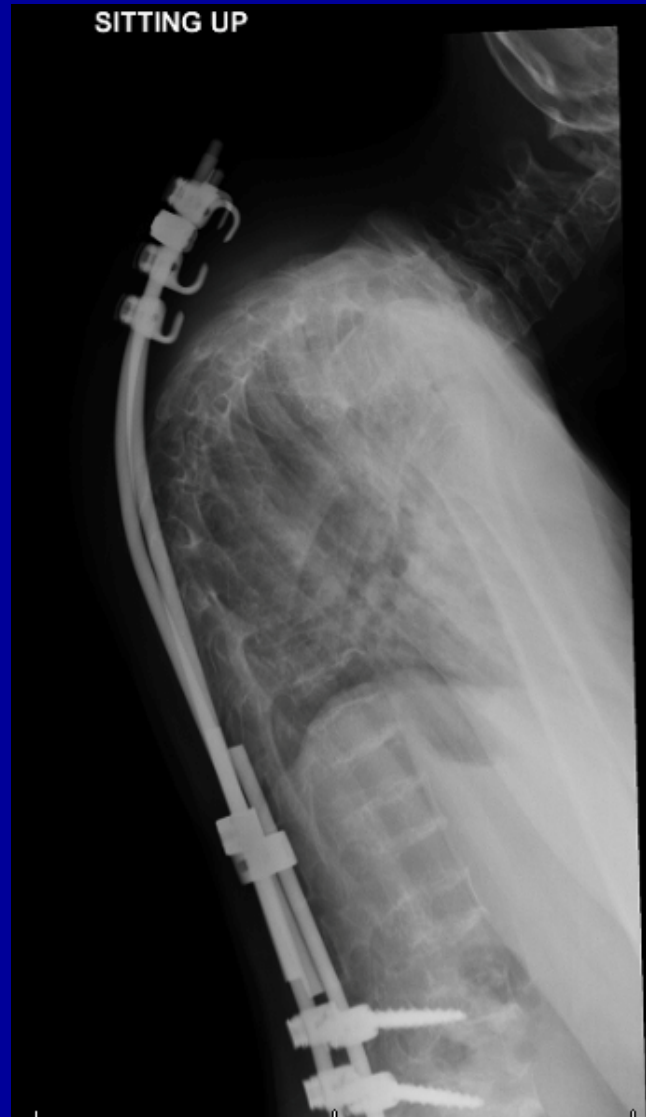
Casting could not correct the kyphosis



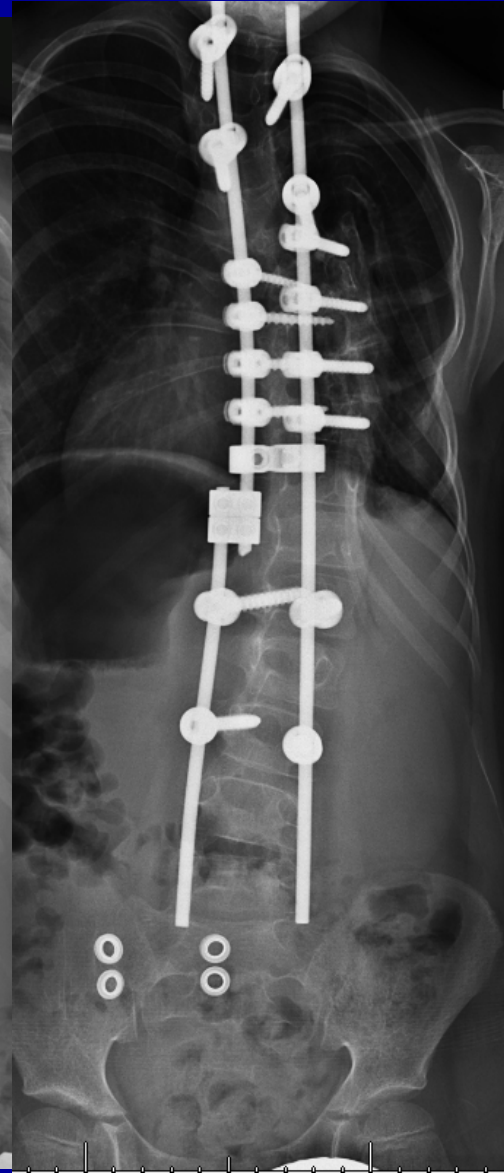
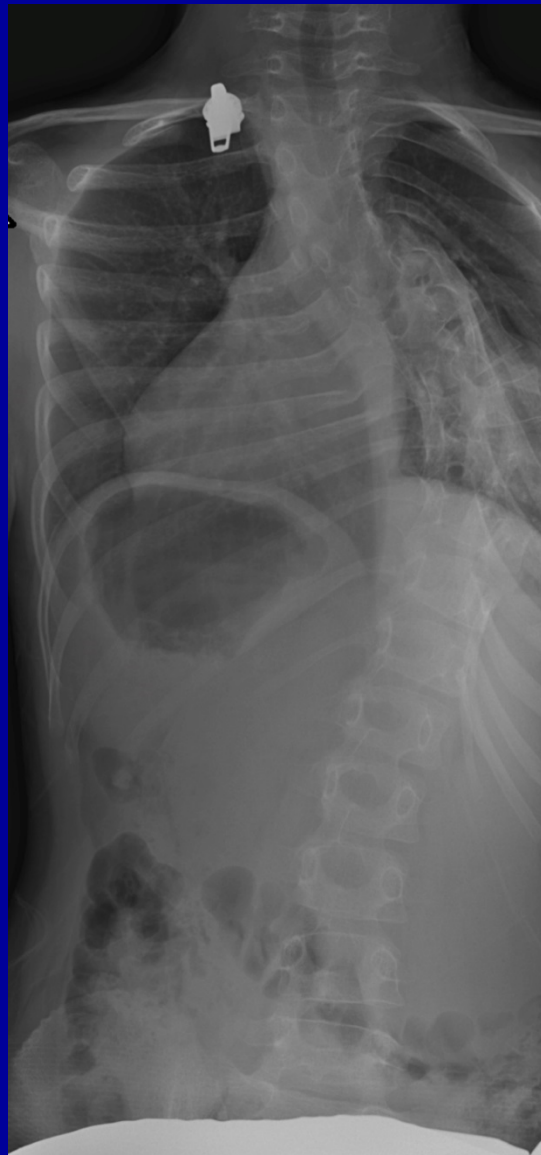
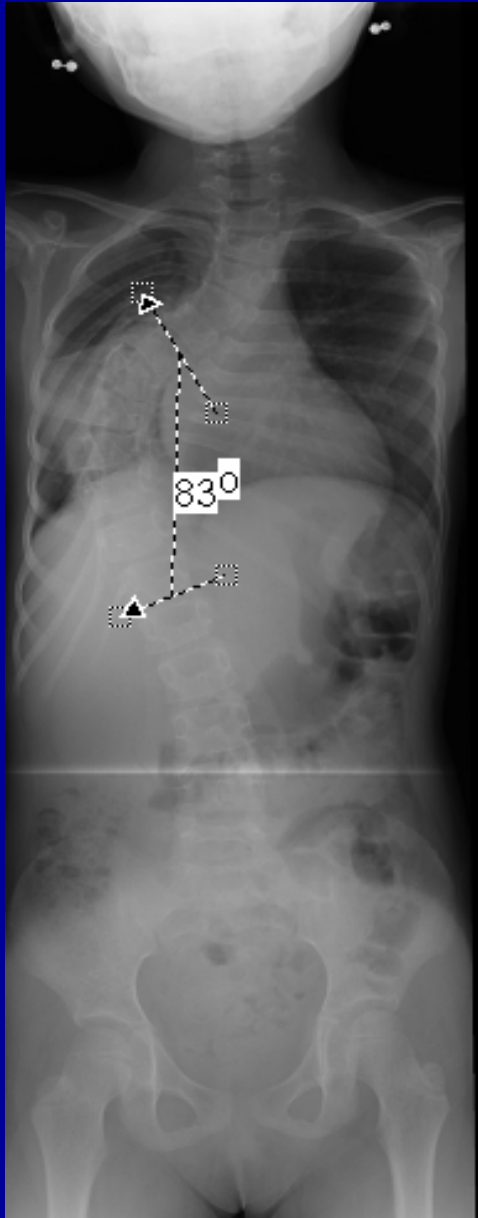
Halo Txn, growth rods, Halo Milwaukee



Infected and Failed “Growth Friendly” Instrumentation



Dystrophic NF



Three Basic Techniques

- Halo Gravity
- Halo Pelvic
- Halo Femoral
 - My experience is primarily with the first except intraop with the last

What are the keys to safe halo traction?



Halo Application

- Lots of Pins
 - Infants 12 at 1 in-lb
 - Adults 4 at 8 in-lb
 - Split the difference for the rest, but err on “more is better”
- If the head is misshaped, size halos beforehand
- Need halos with pin sites in the back



Halo Gravity Technique

- Try to pick a technique where the patient can relieve excessive pull if needed
- Weights (most dangerous – no relief)
- Fish scale – works well
- Linkage



Halo Gravity Modified

- Copied TSRH Technique
- John Emans and crew now put a Halo Brace on with the traction to keep stable when out of the traction
- We use a soft cervical collar, but I like their thoughts



A Good Team



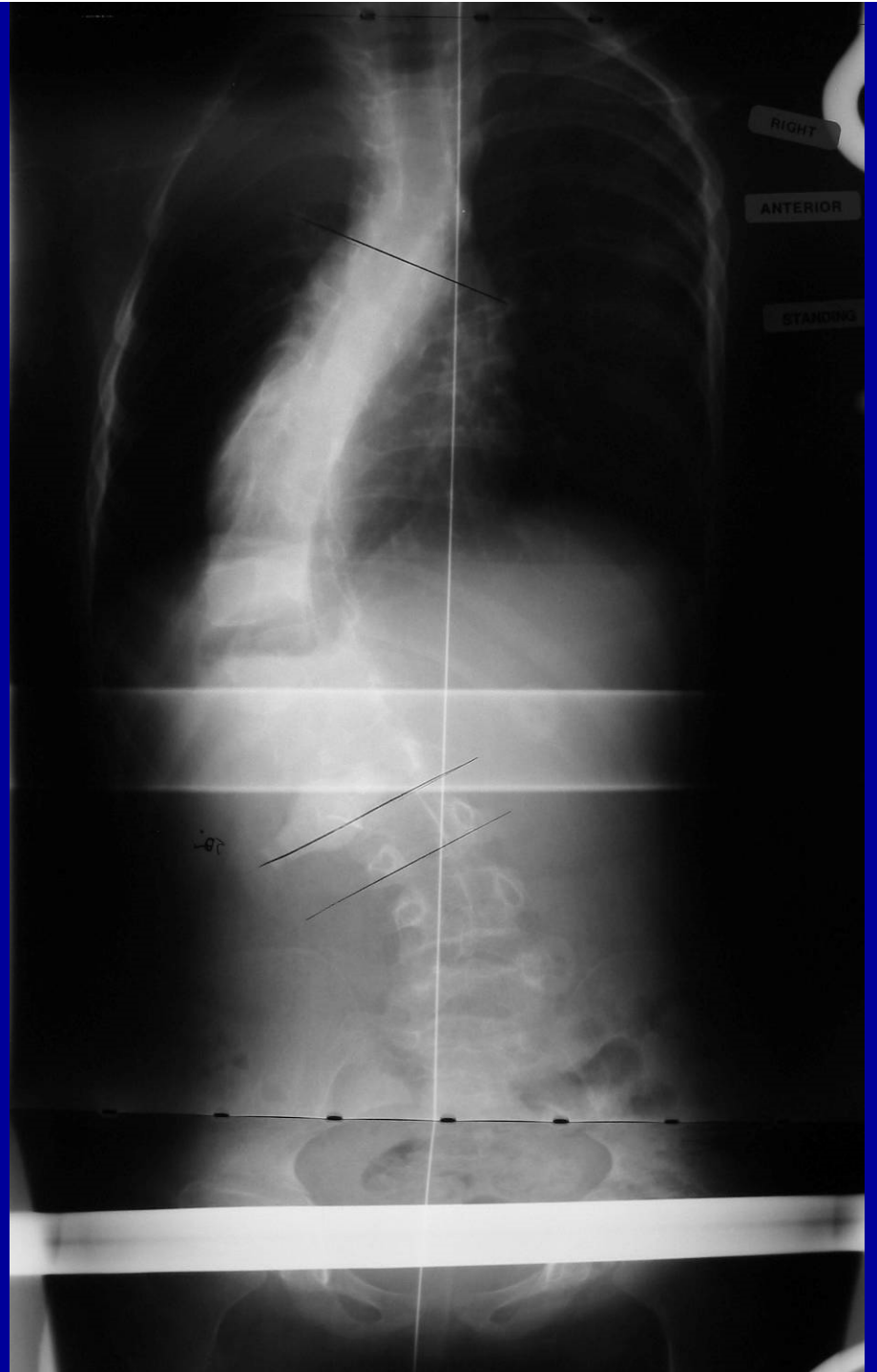
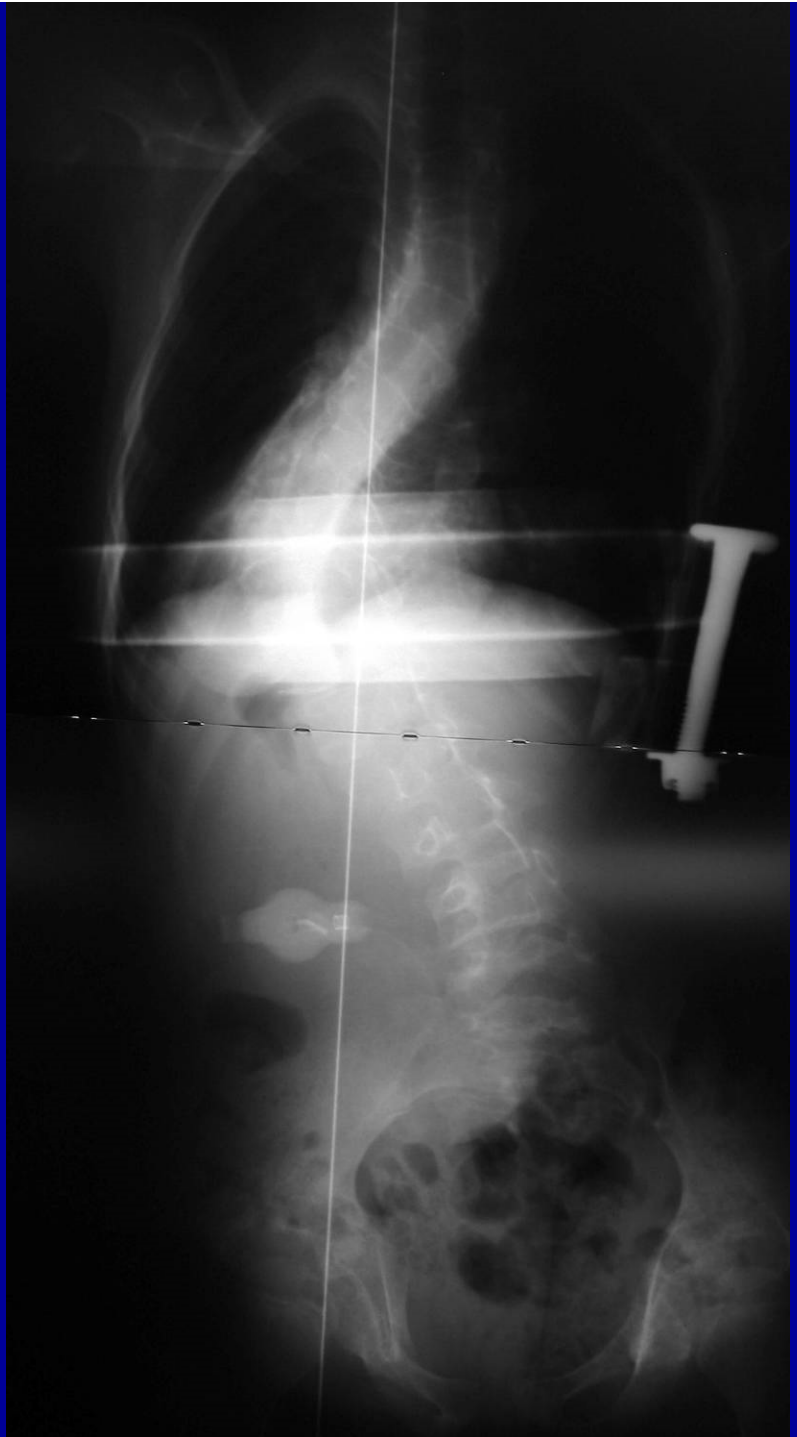
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Orthotic
- Pediatric PT
- Social Work
- Regular nursing in-services

Method

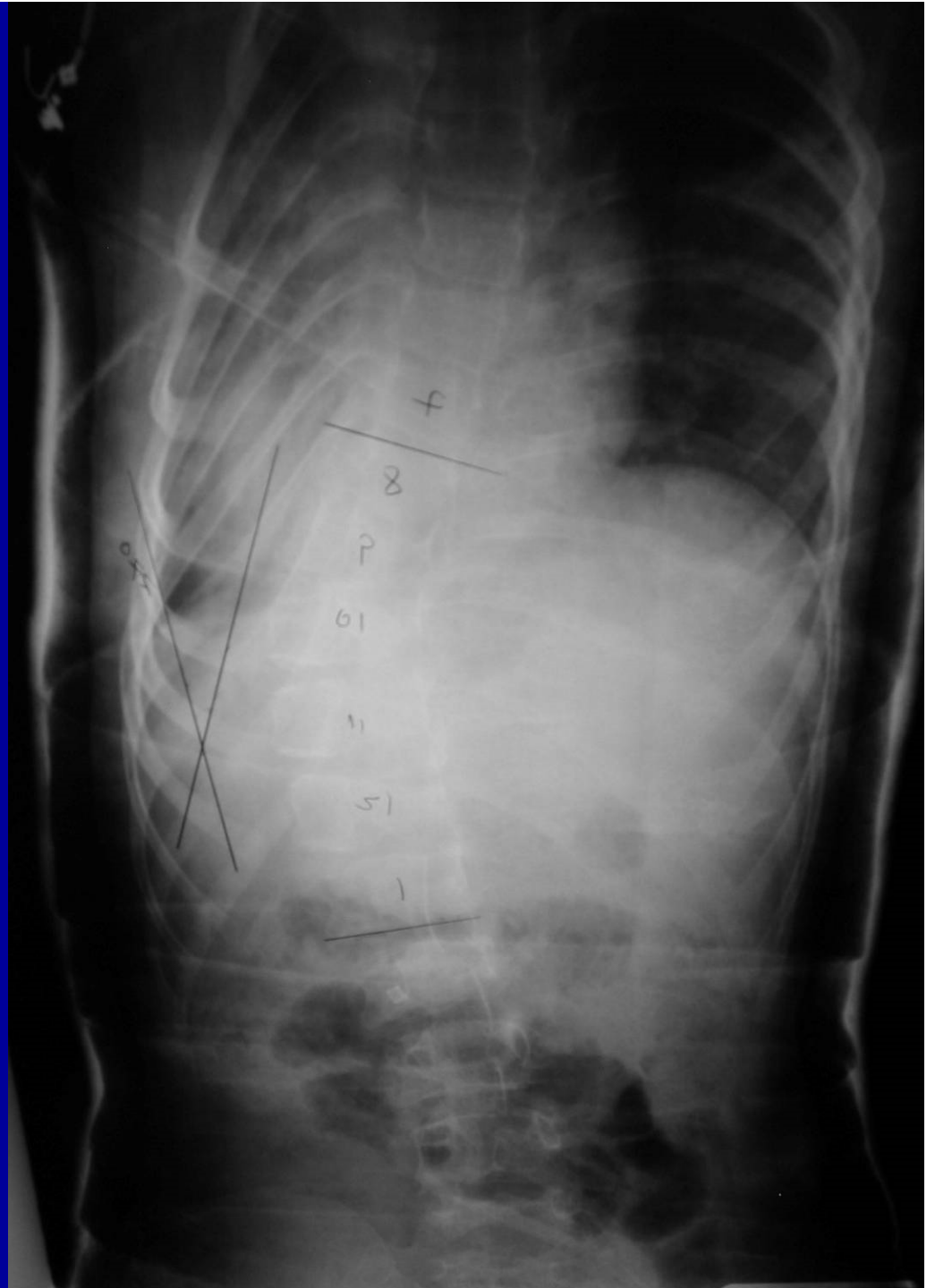
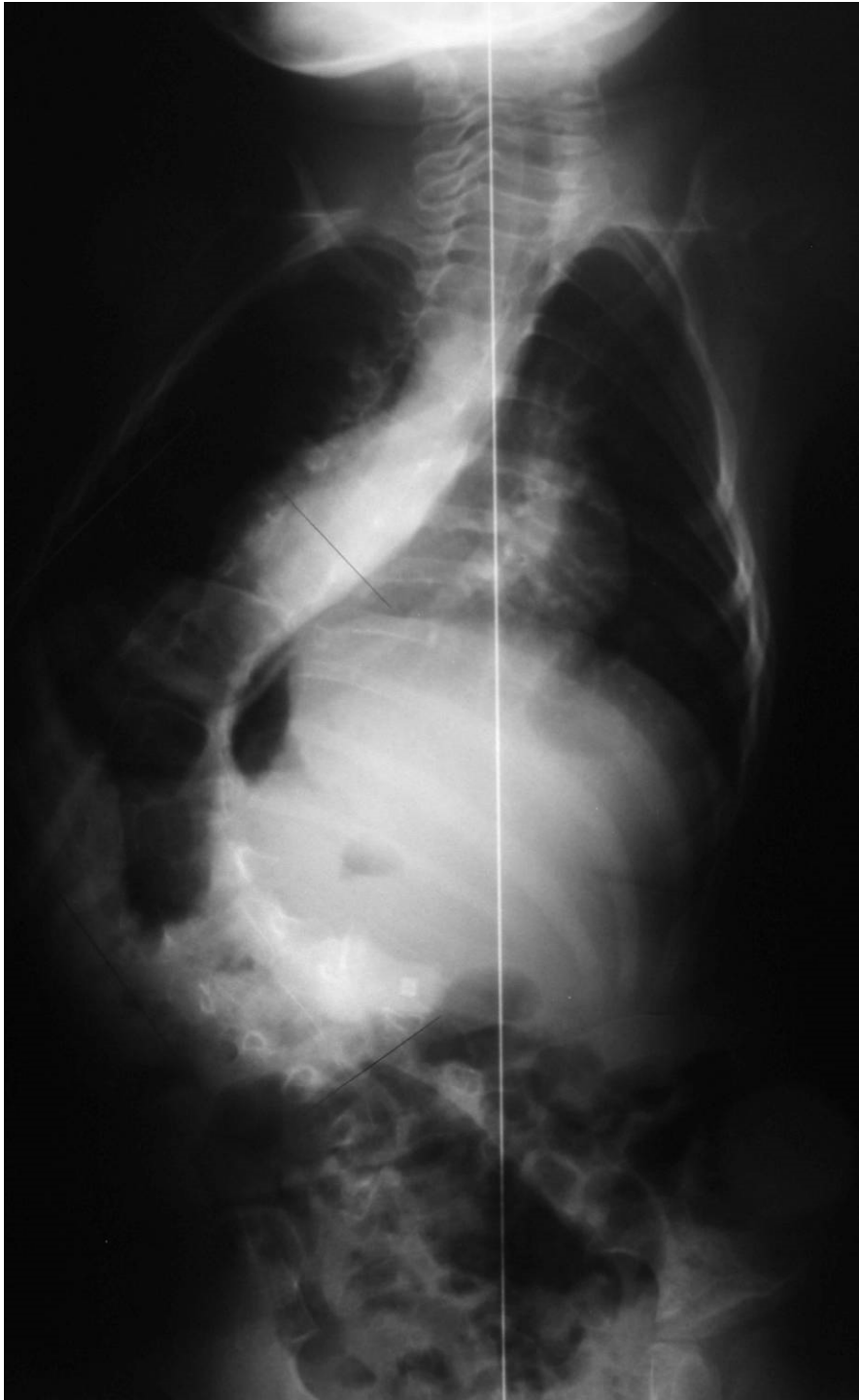
- Start with 5-10 lbs depending on size
- Increase 1-2 lbs per day up to ~50% body weight
- Regularly Check Cranial Nerves – Especially VI
- Watch for Hypertension
- Periodic C-spine x-rays looking for over-distraction
- In reliable families, can do at home once up to weight











Halo traction – a very cool tool

