

Congenital deformity Dangerous, Benign

Thanos Tsirikos, MD, FRCS, PhD

Consultant Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon
Clinical Lead
Scottish National Spine Deformity Center
Edinburgh, United Kingdom



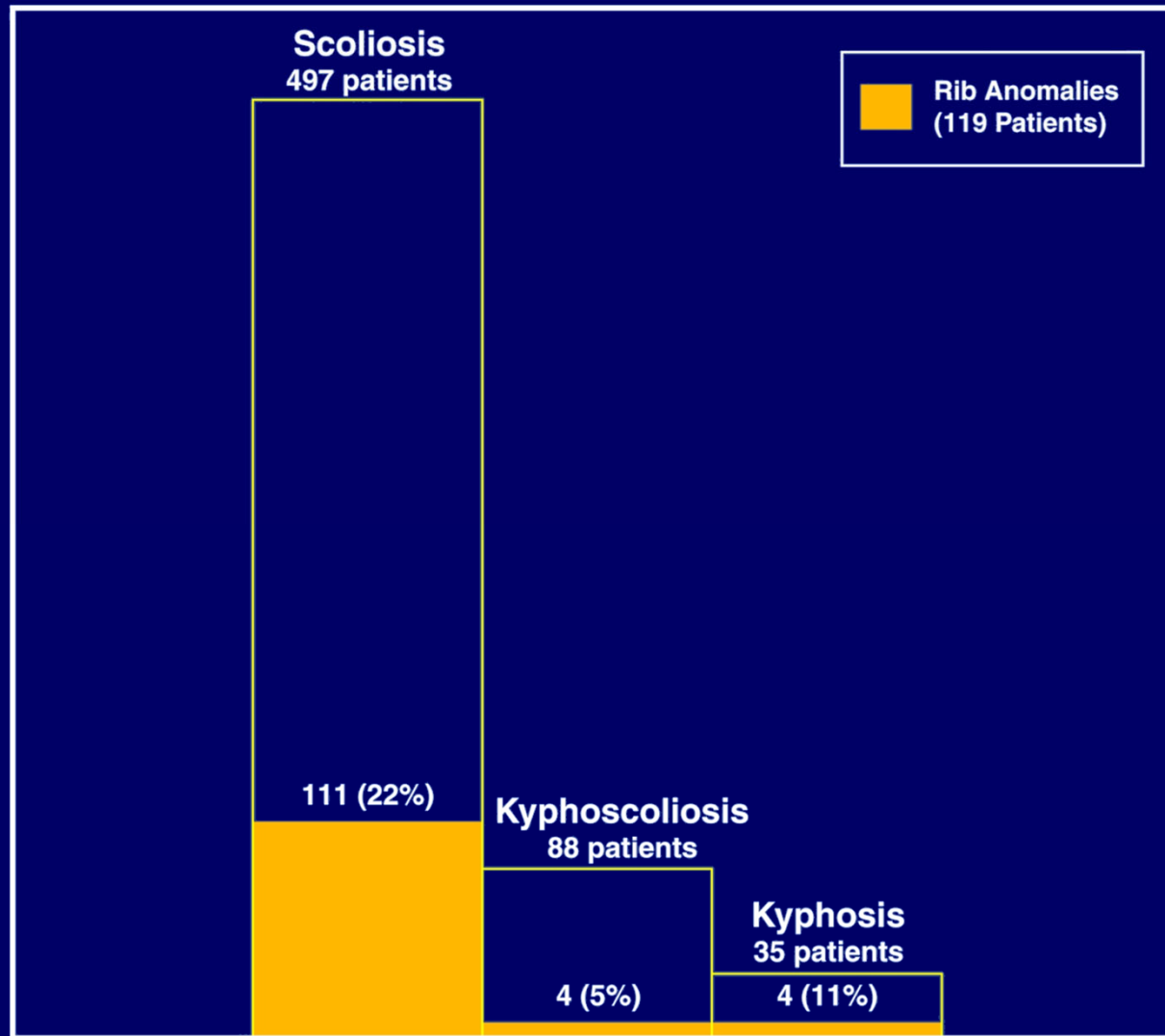
Pathogenesis

- represent a gradually blending spectrum of spinal deformities
- developmental anomalies producing a localized imbalance in the longitudinal growth of the spine
- **congenital scoliosis**: during the first 6 weeks of intrauterine life (mesenchymal stage)

Pathogenesis

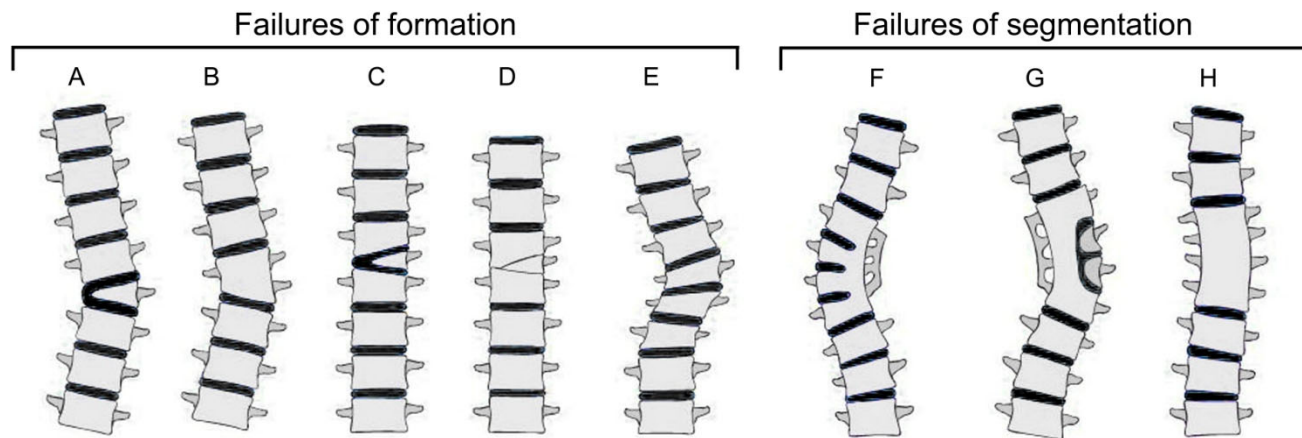
- **congenital kyphosis**: during the later stages of chondrification and ossification
- **failure of formation**: due to localized failure of vascularization of the developing cartilaginous centrum
- **failure of segmentation**: due to bony metaplasia occurring in the anterior part of the annulus fibrosus and ring apophysis

Type of spinal deformity

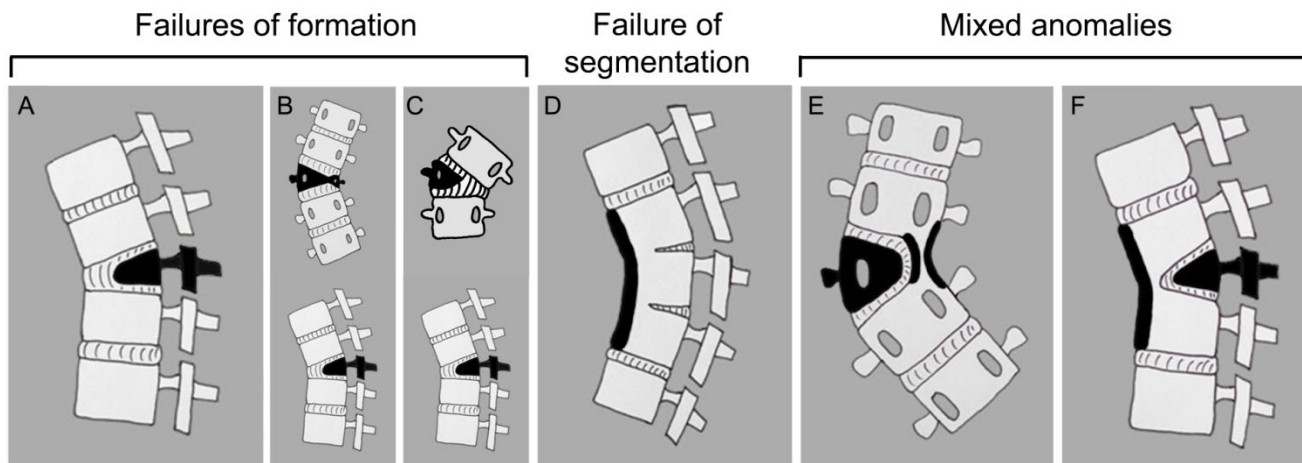


Classification

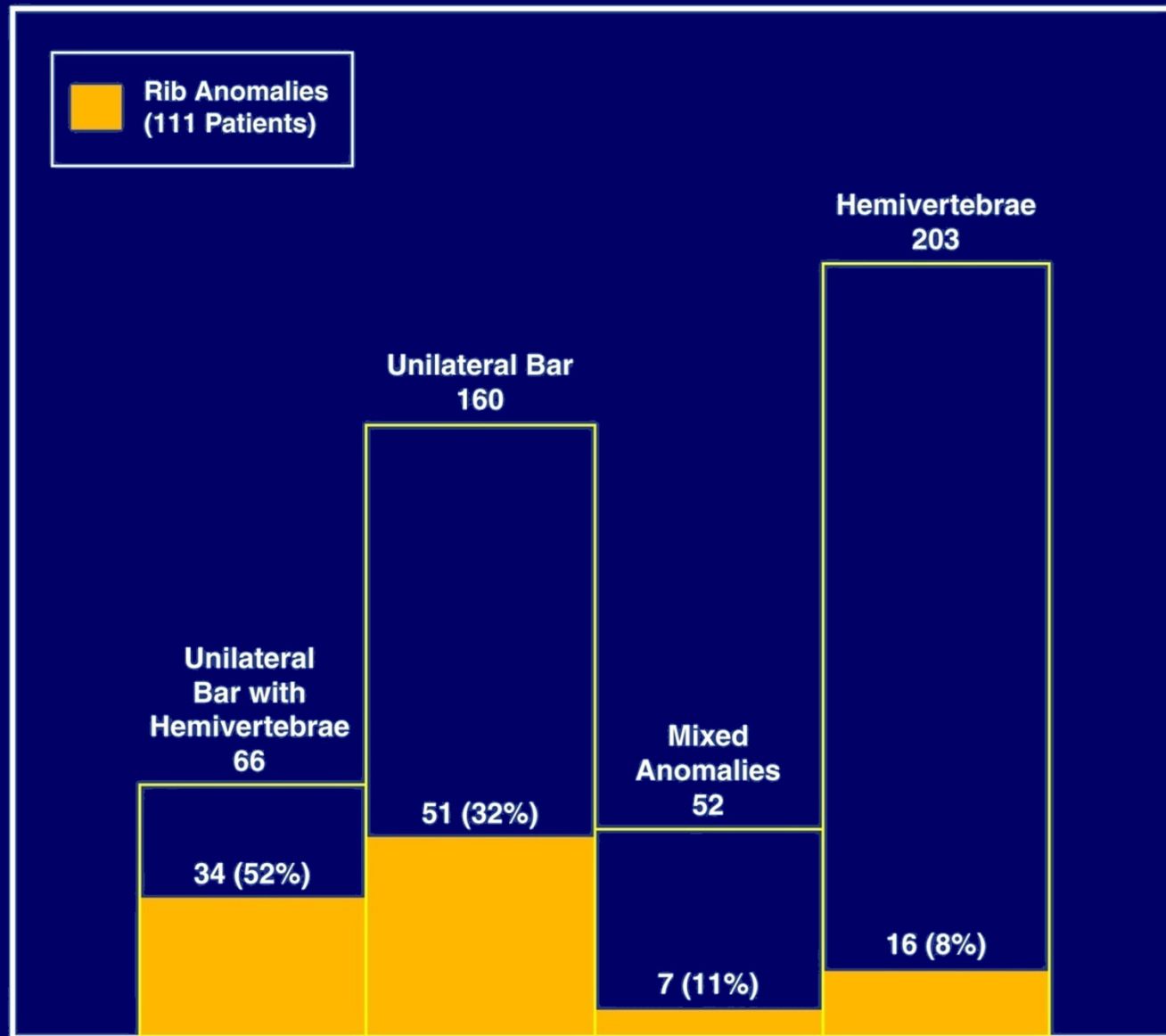
Congenital Scoliosis



Congenital Kyphosis and Kyphoscoliosis



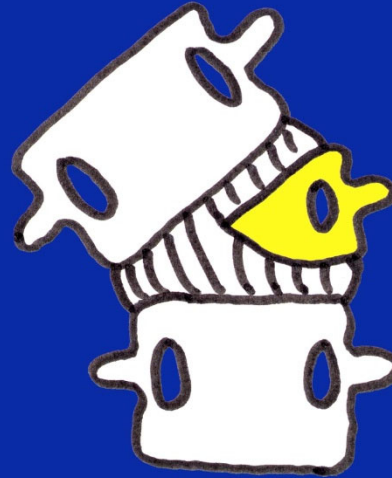
CONGENITAL SCOLIOSIS (481 patients)



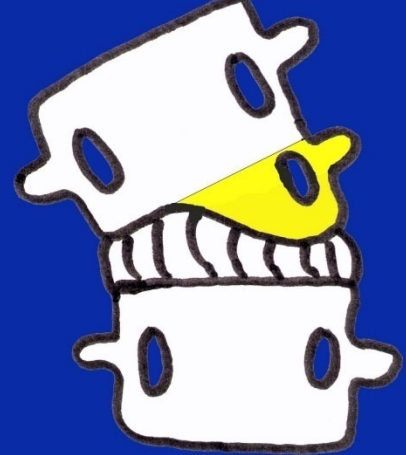
Hemivertebra-prognosis

- pathologic anatomy
- number and relationship to the adjacent vertebrae
- site

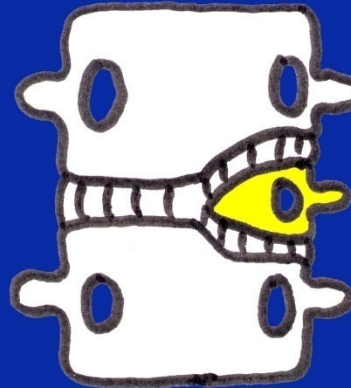
fully segmented



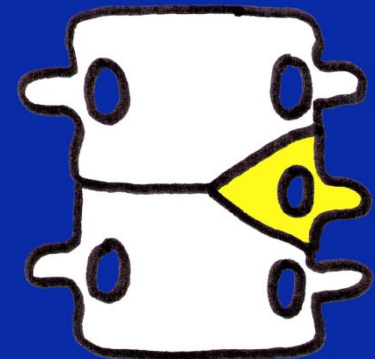
semi-segmented



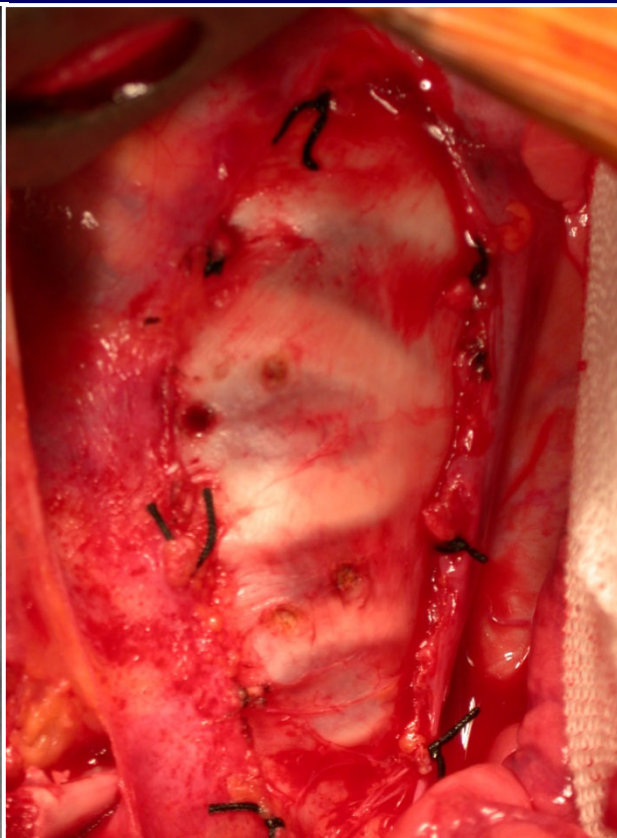
incarcerated



unsegmented

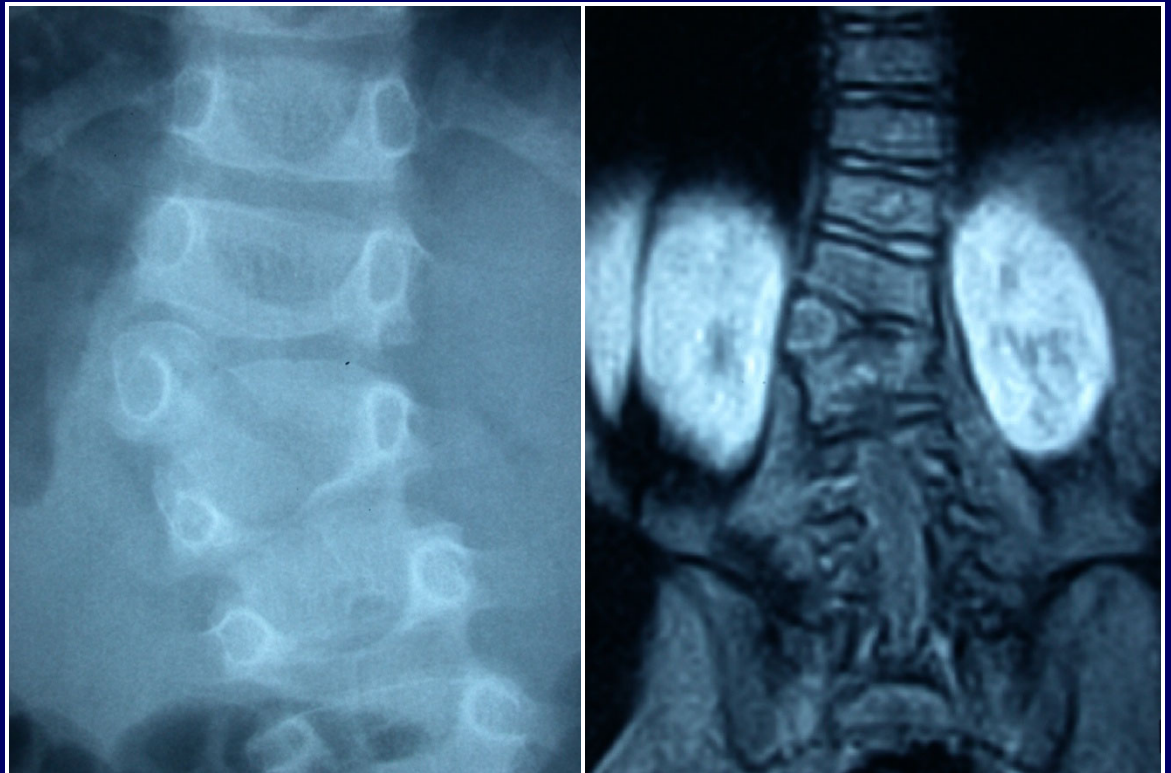


Fully segmented hemivertebra (65%)

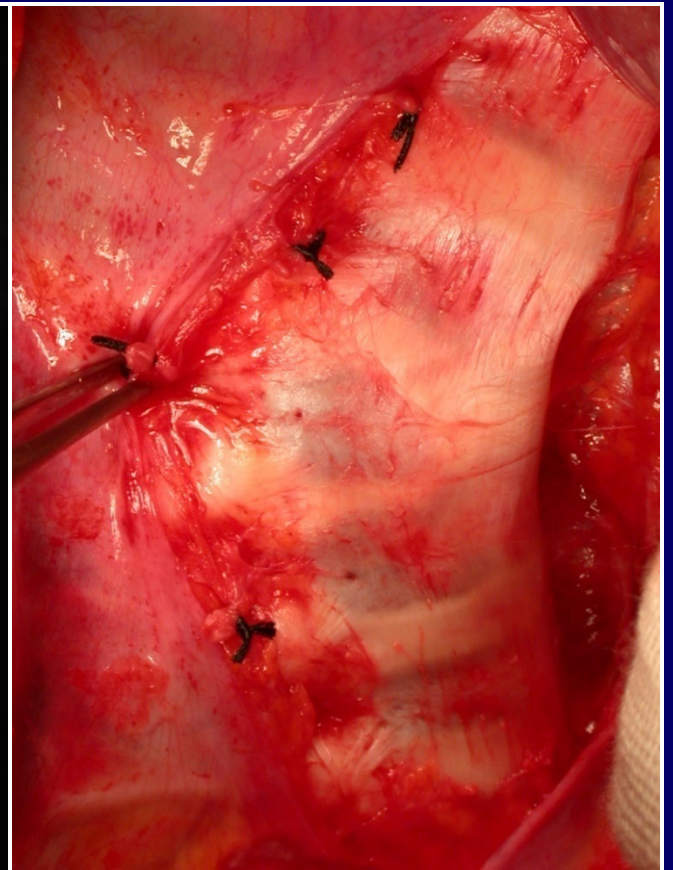
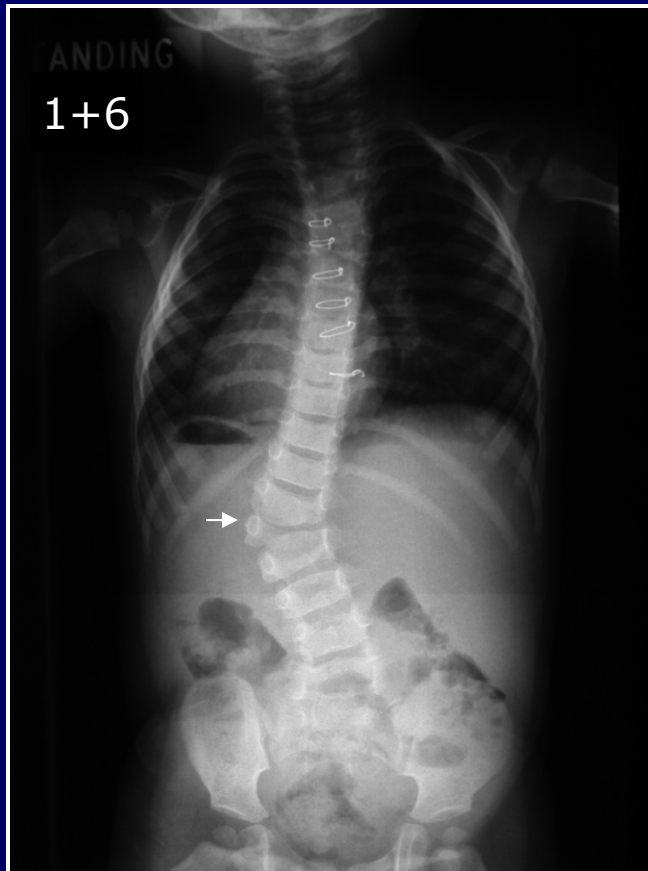


Single fully segmented hemivertebra

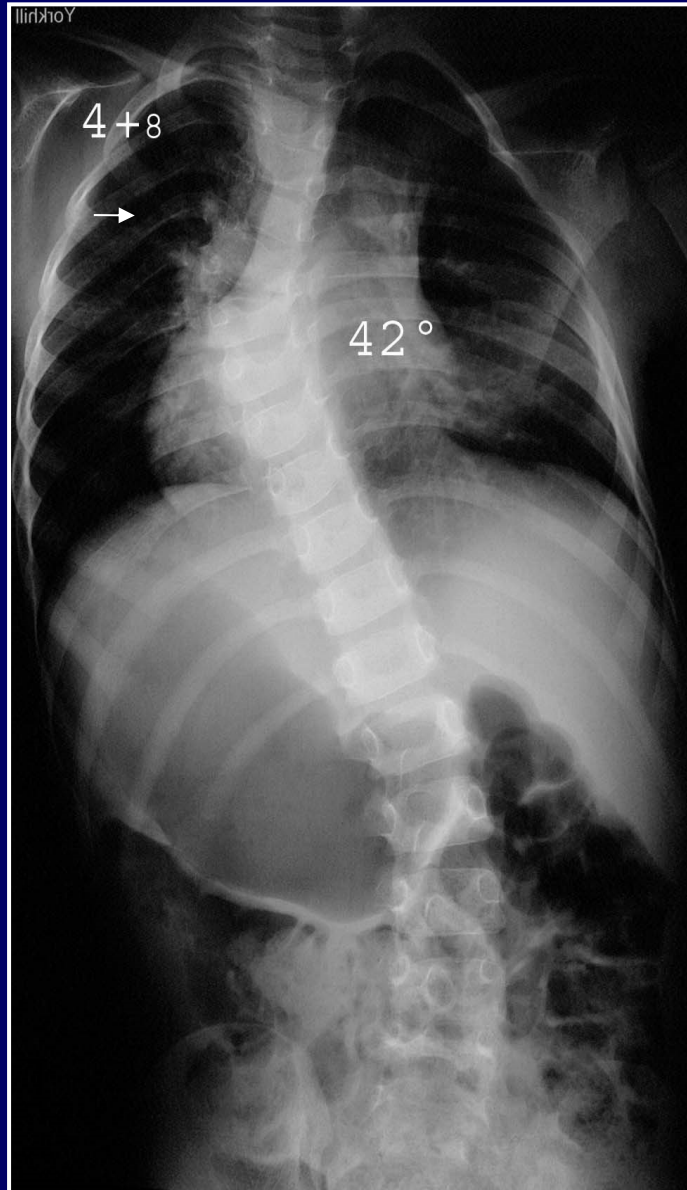
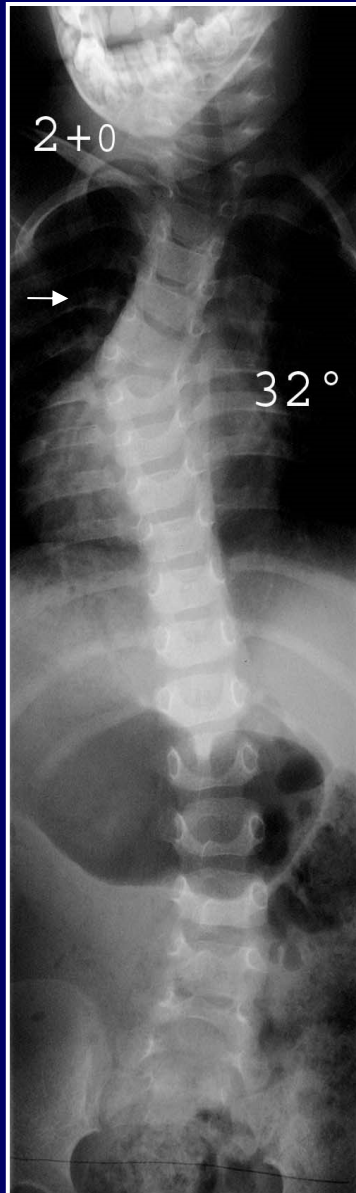
- prognosis is difficult to predict
- scoliosis progresses at a mean rate of 1-2°/year

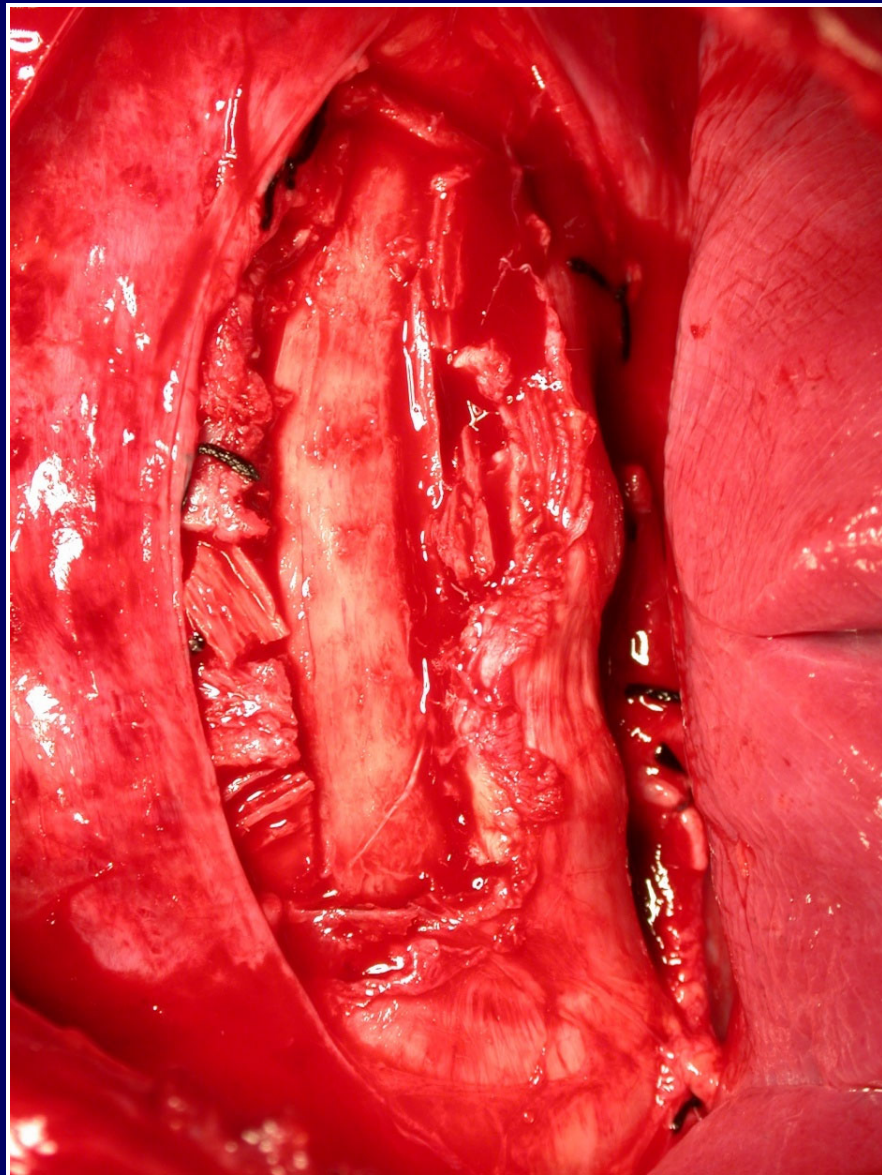
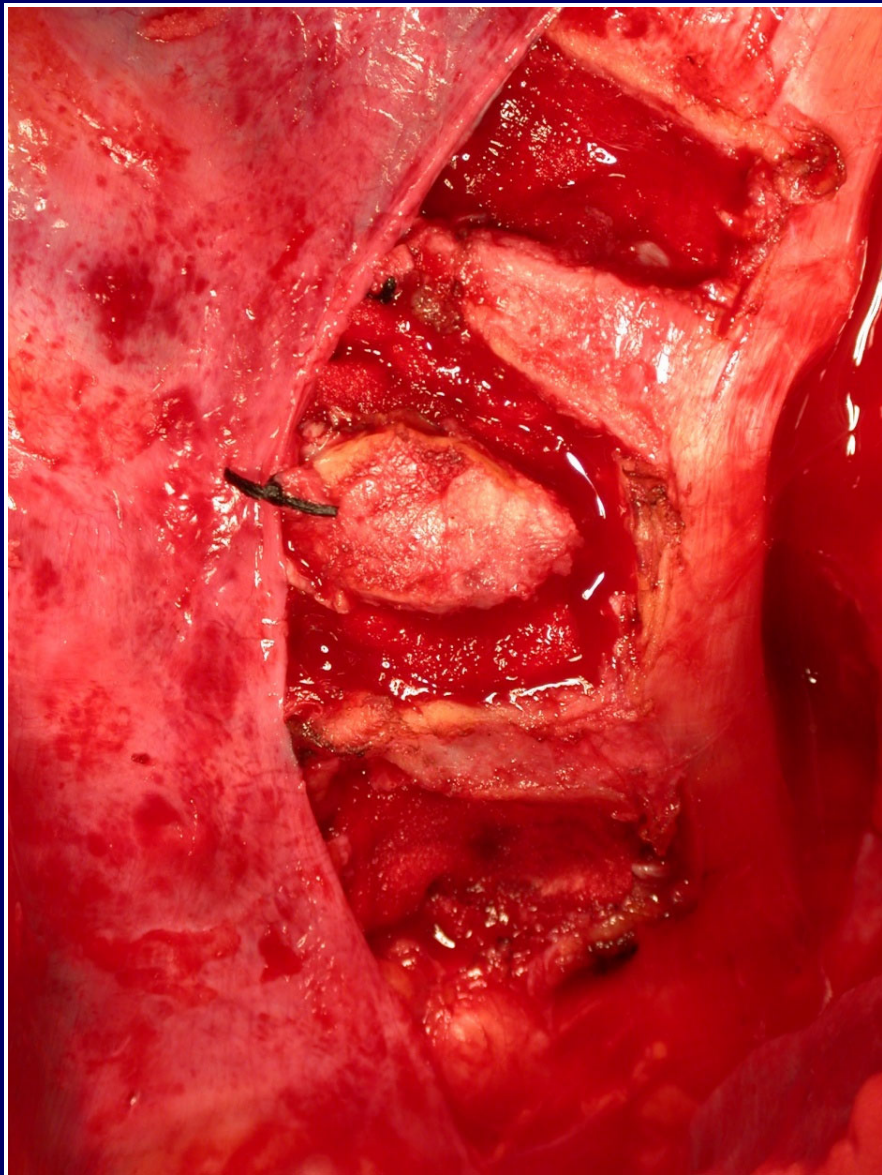


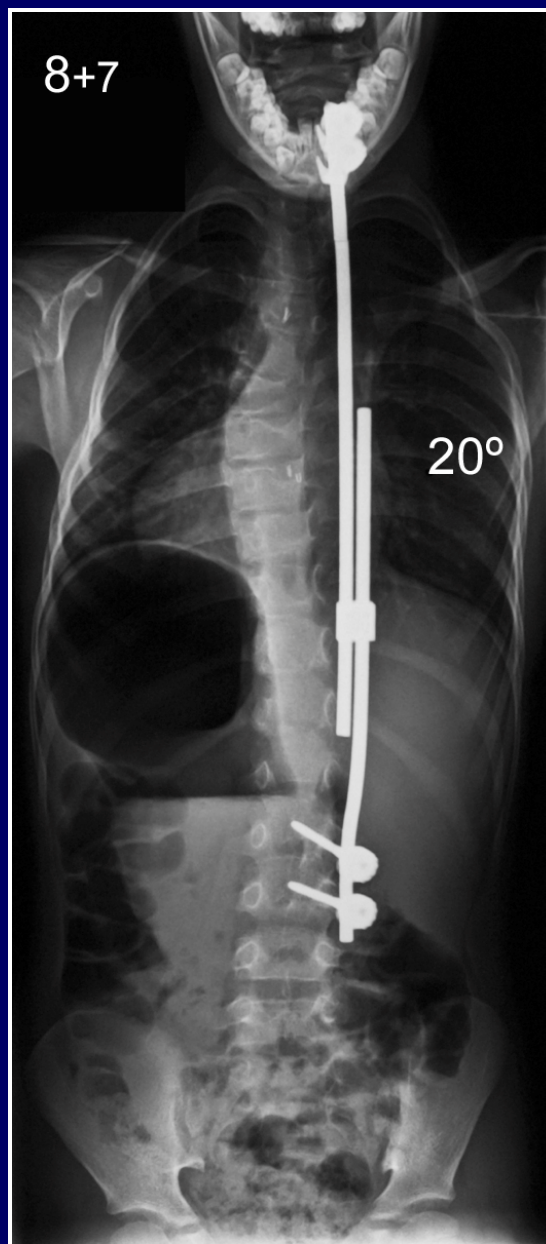
Fully segmented hemivertebra



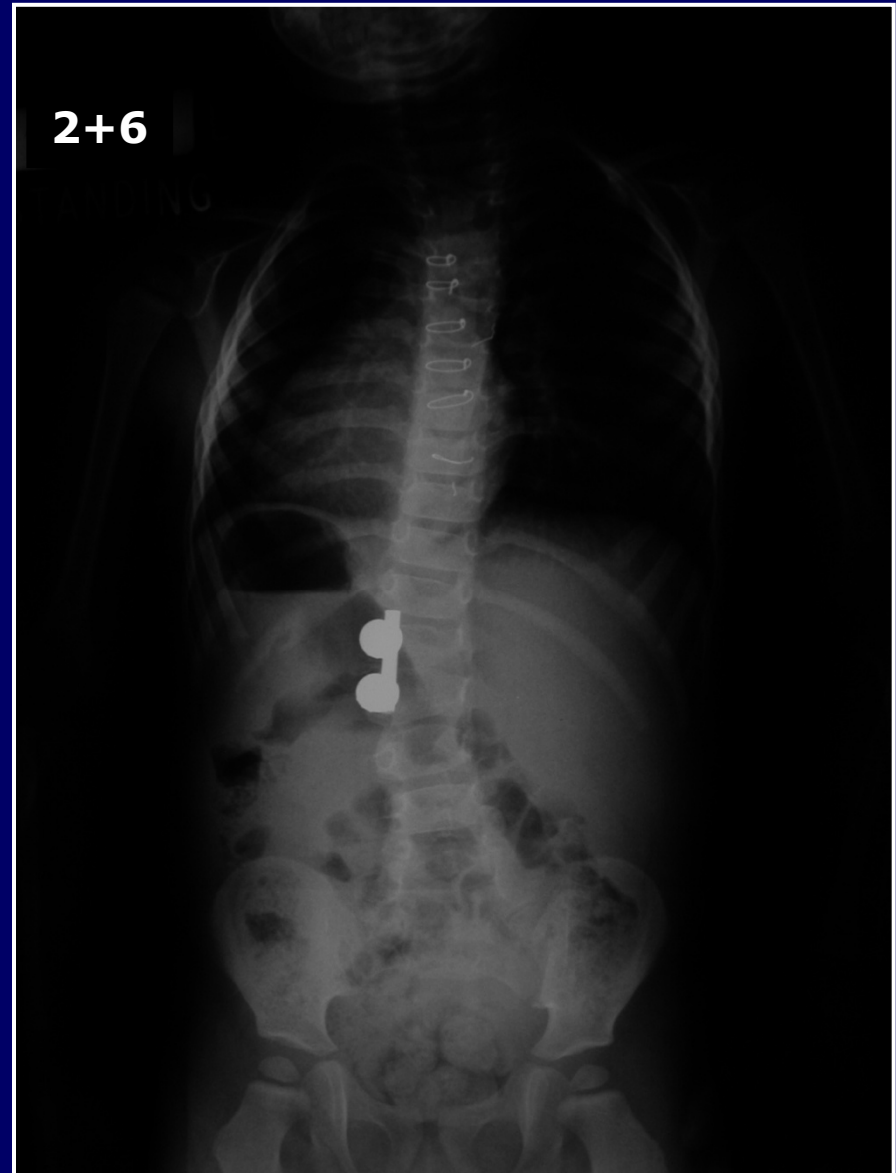
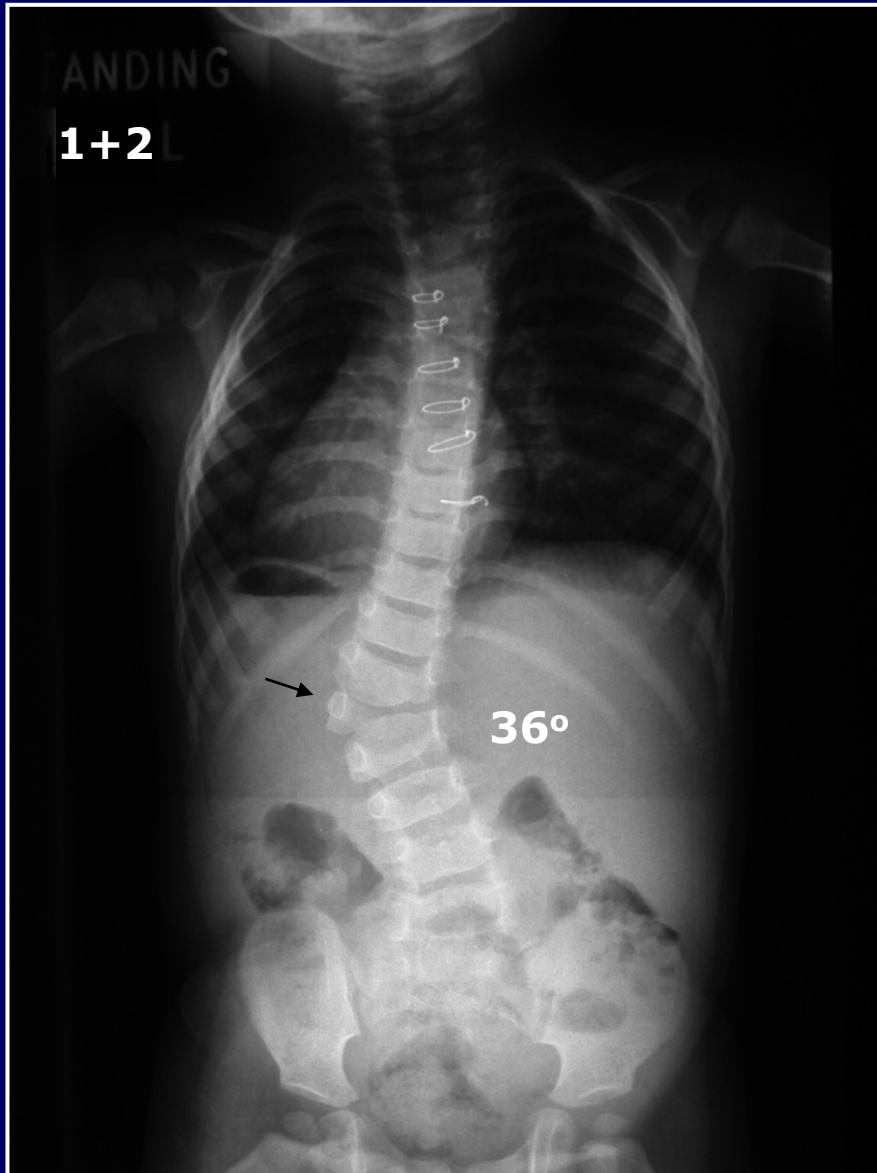
Convex growth arrest procedure

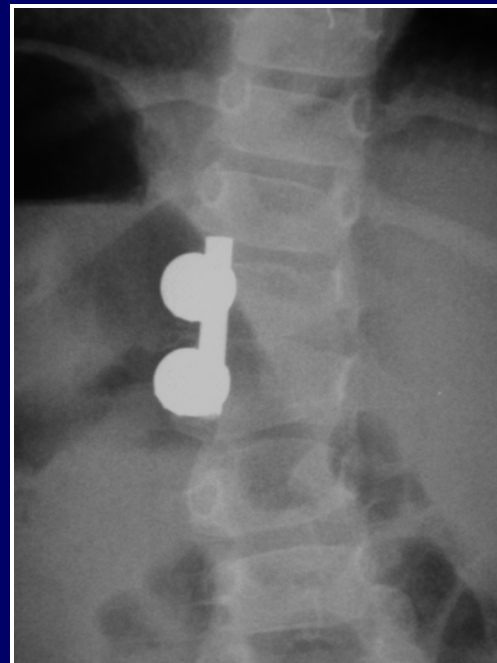




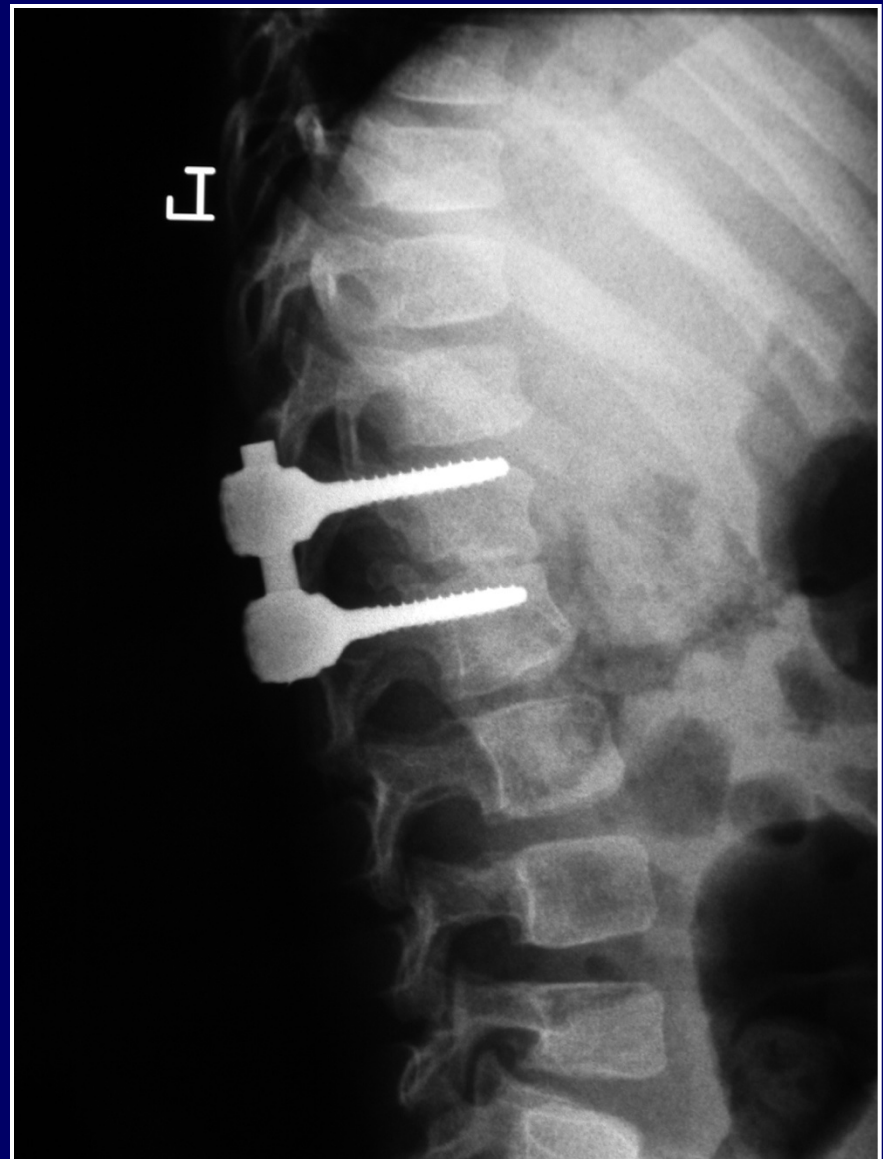
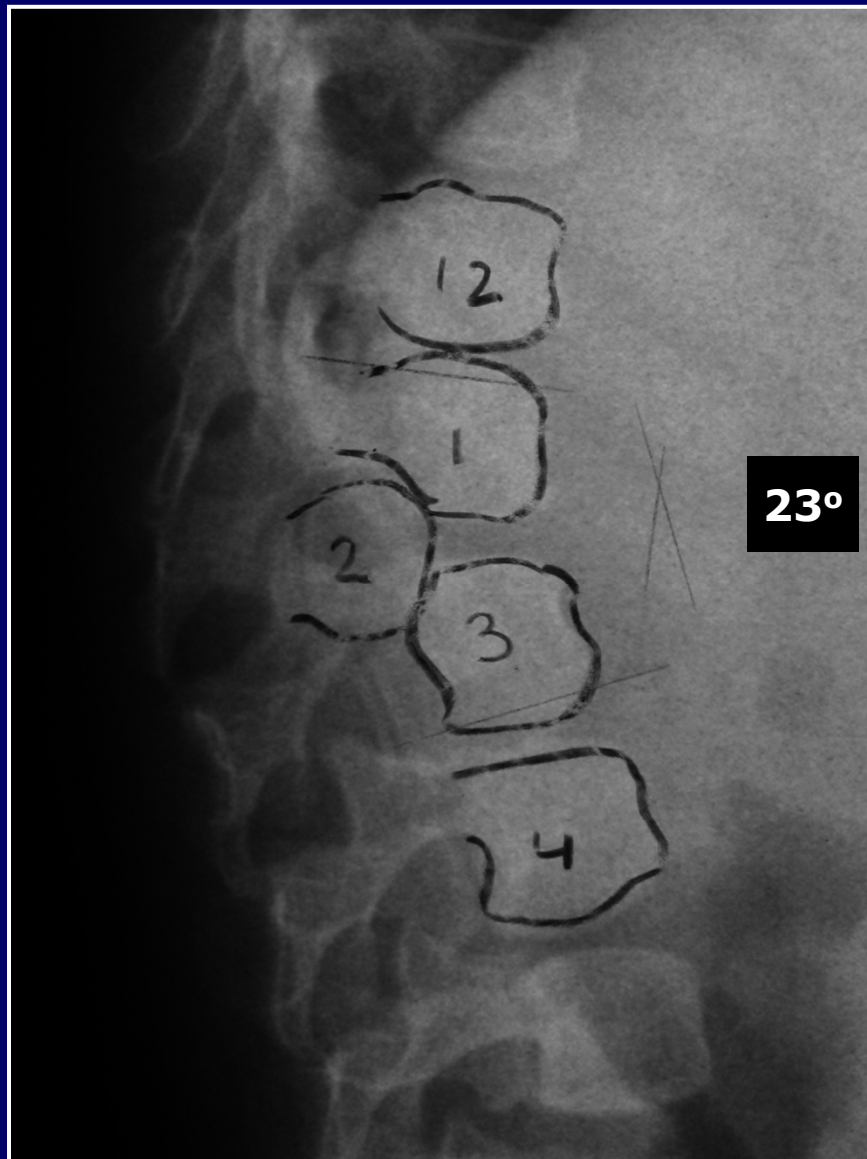


Hemivertebra resection

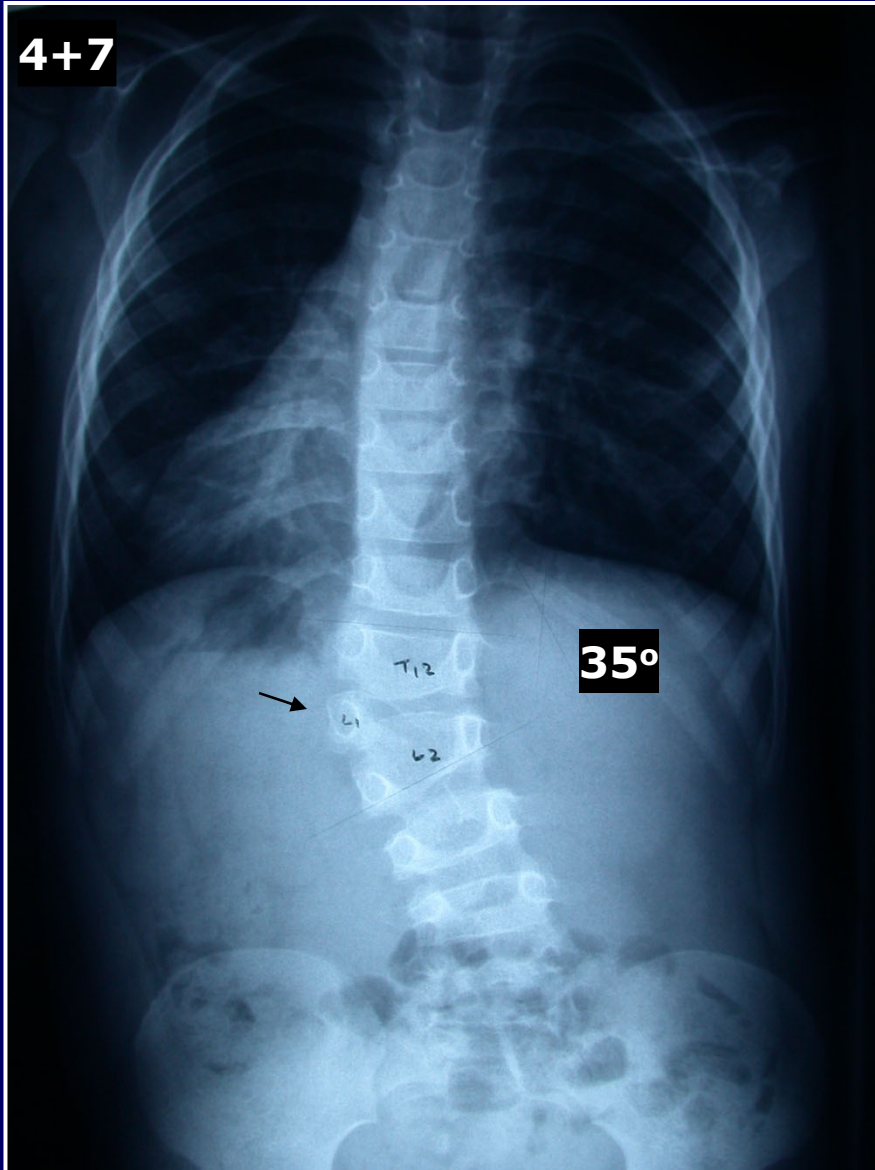


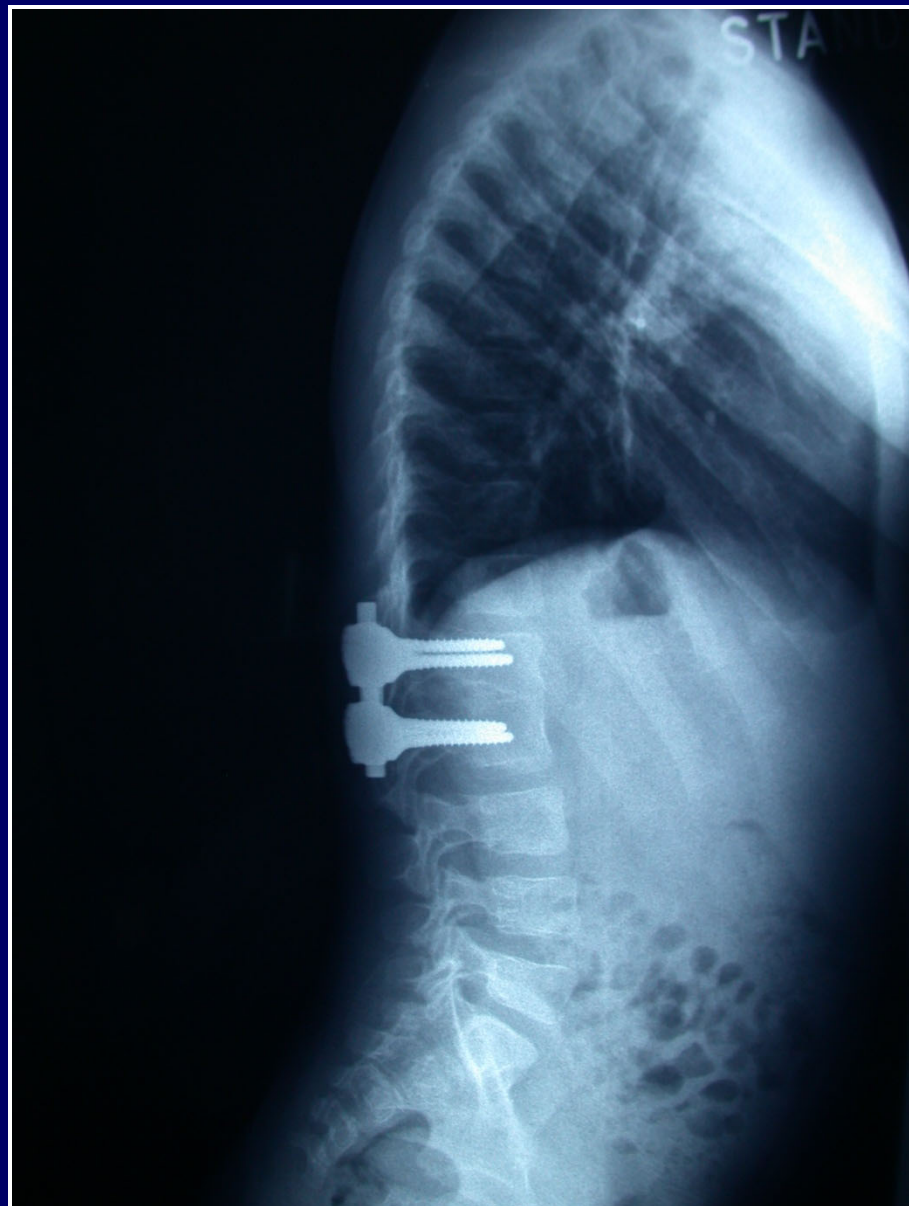
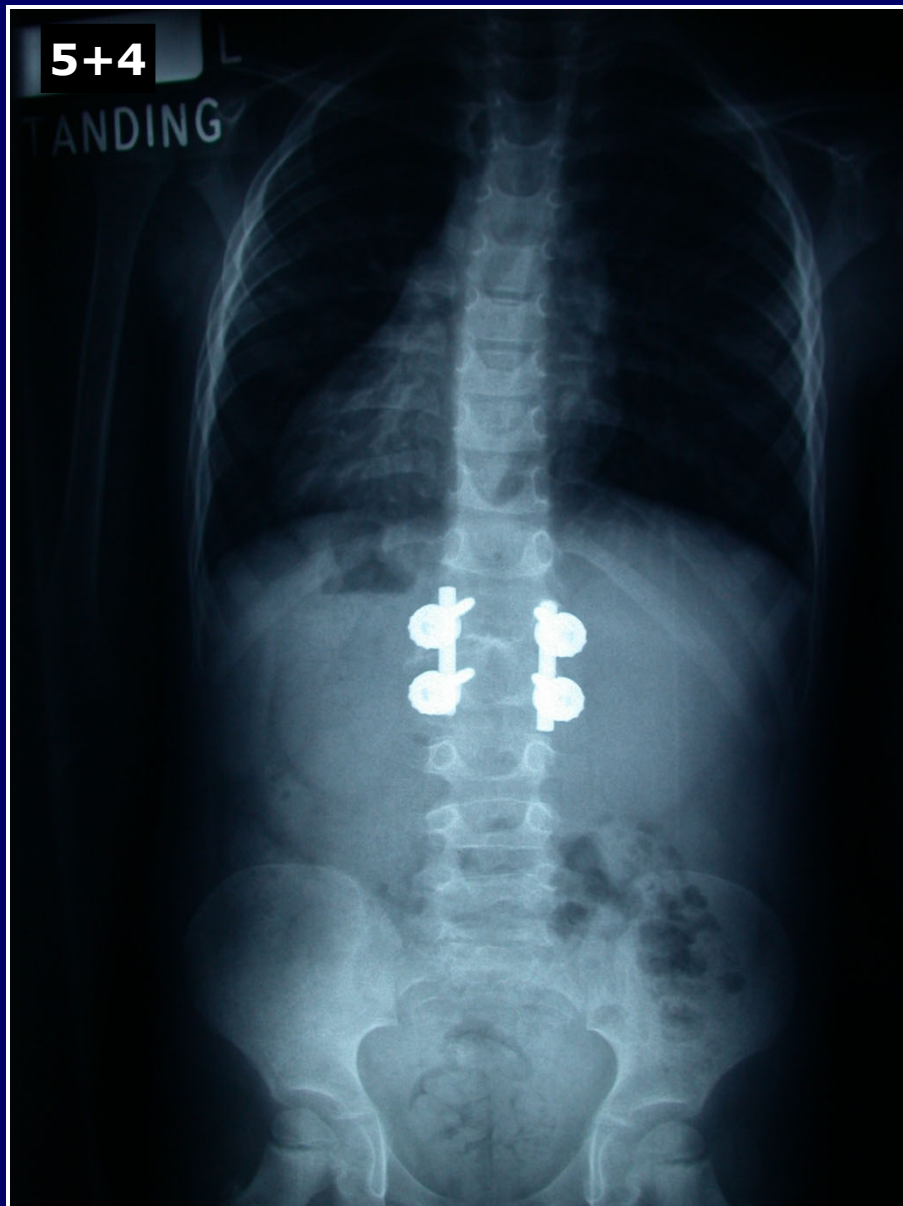


Hemivertebra resection

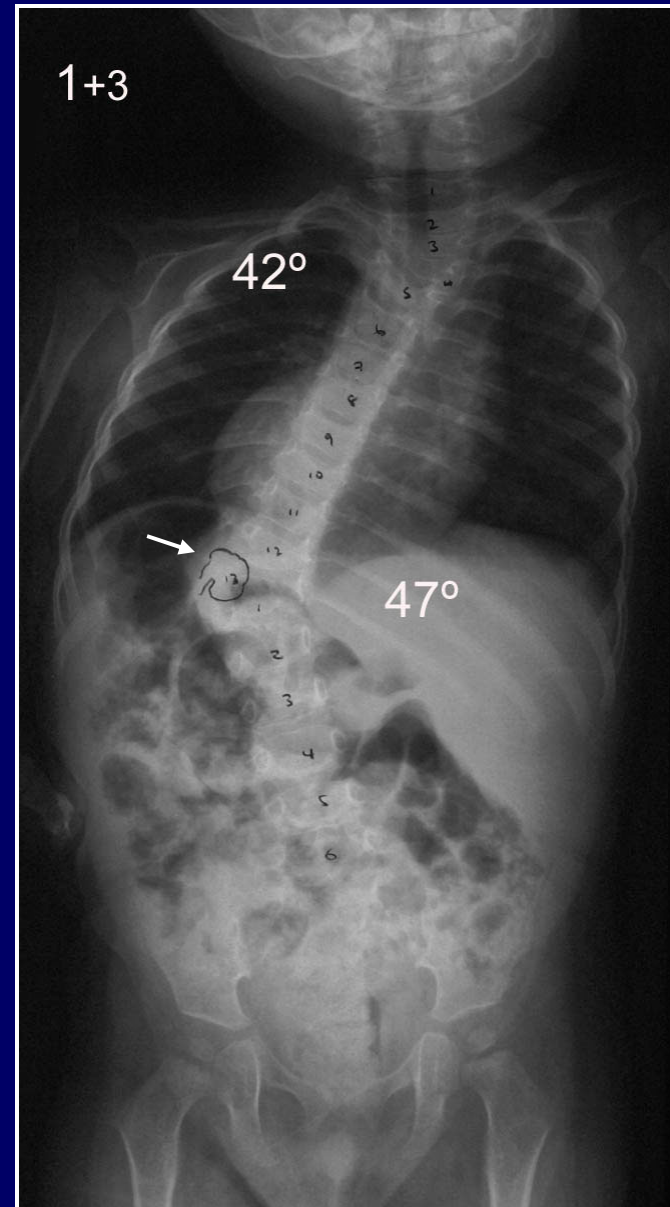
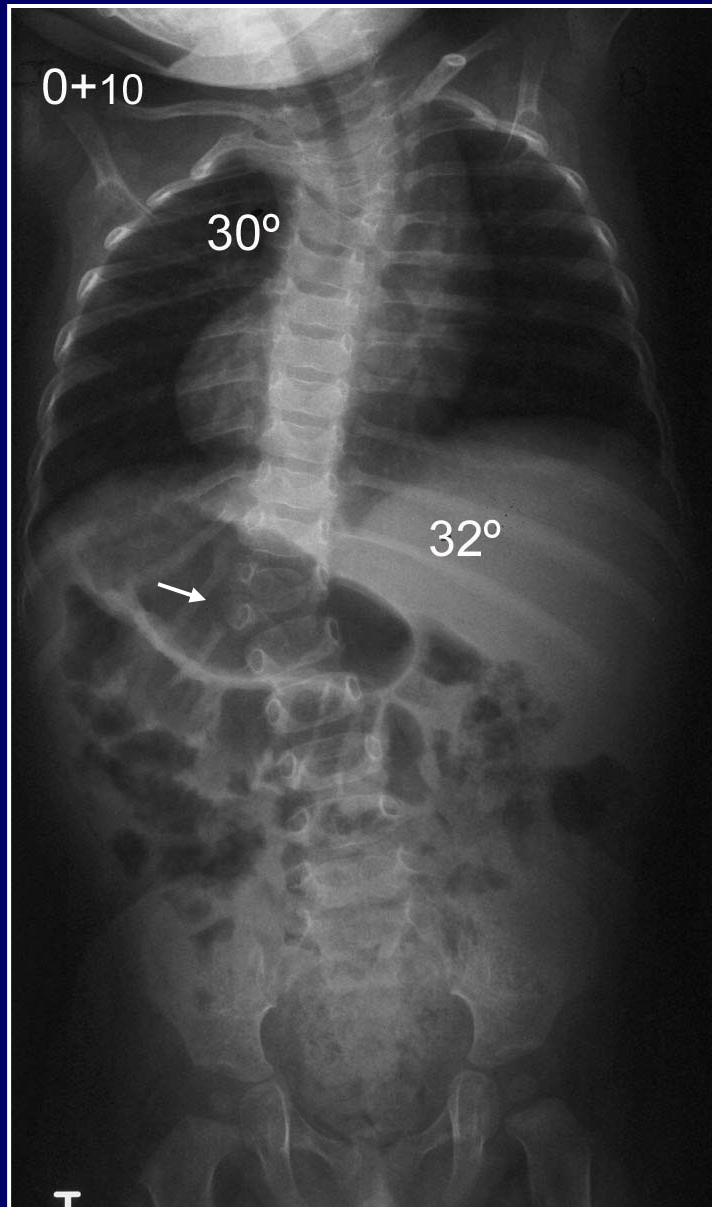


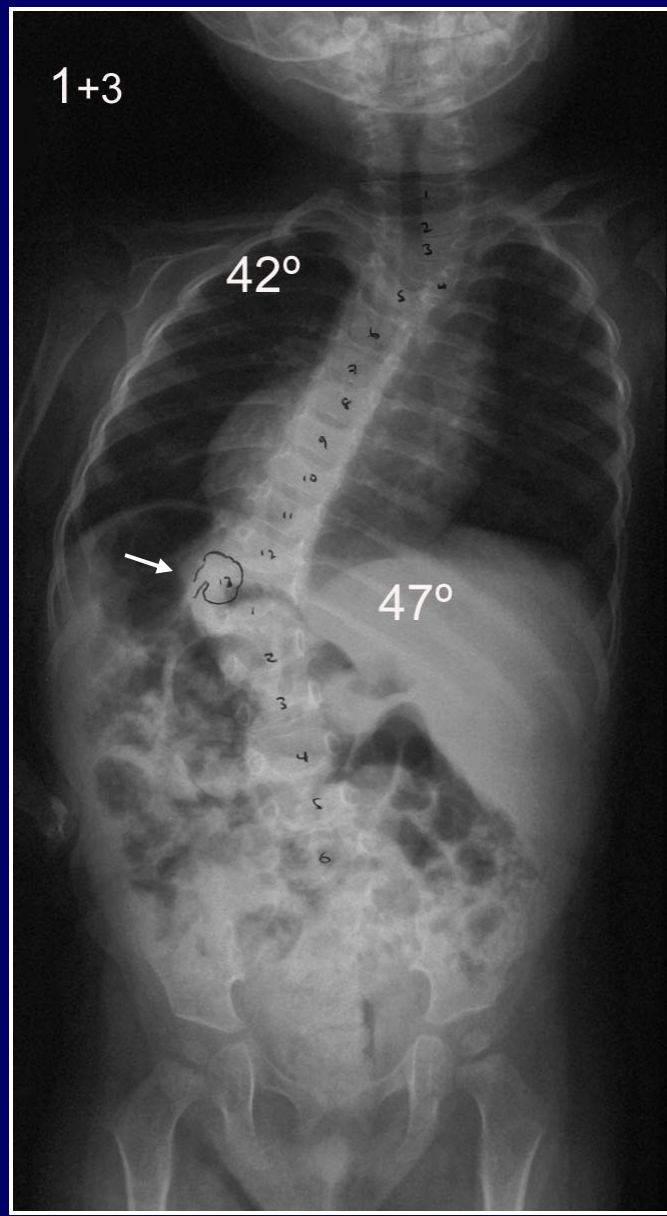
Hemivertebra resection

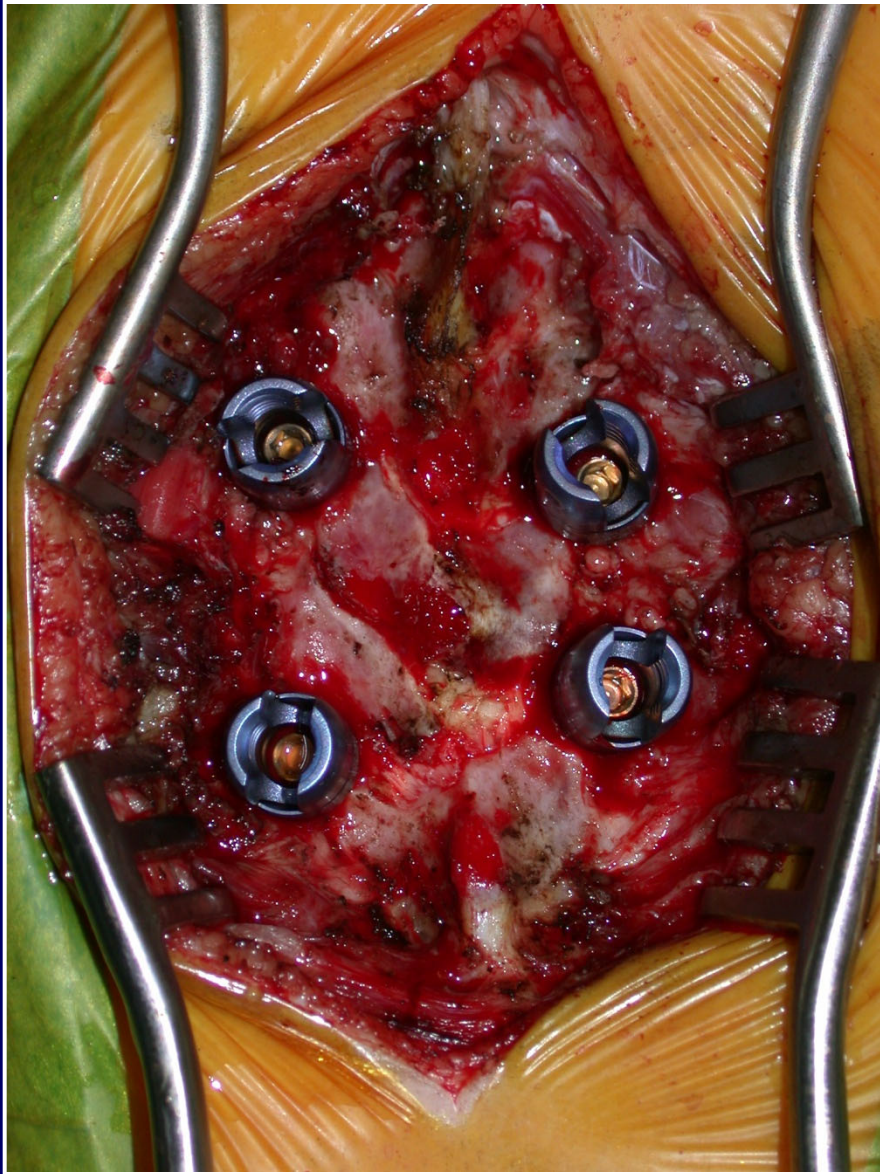


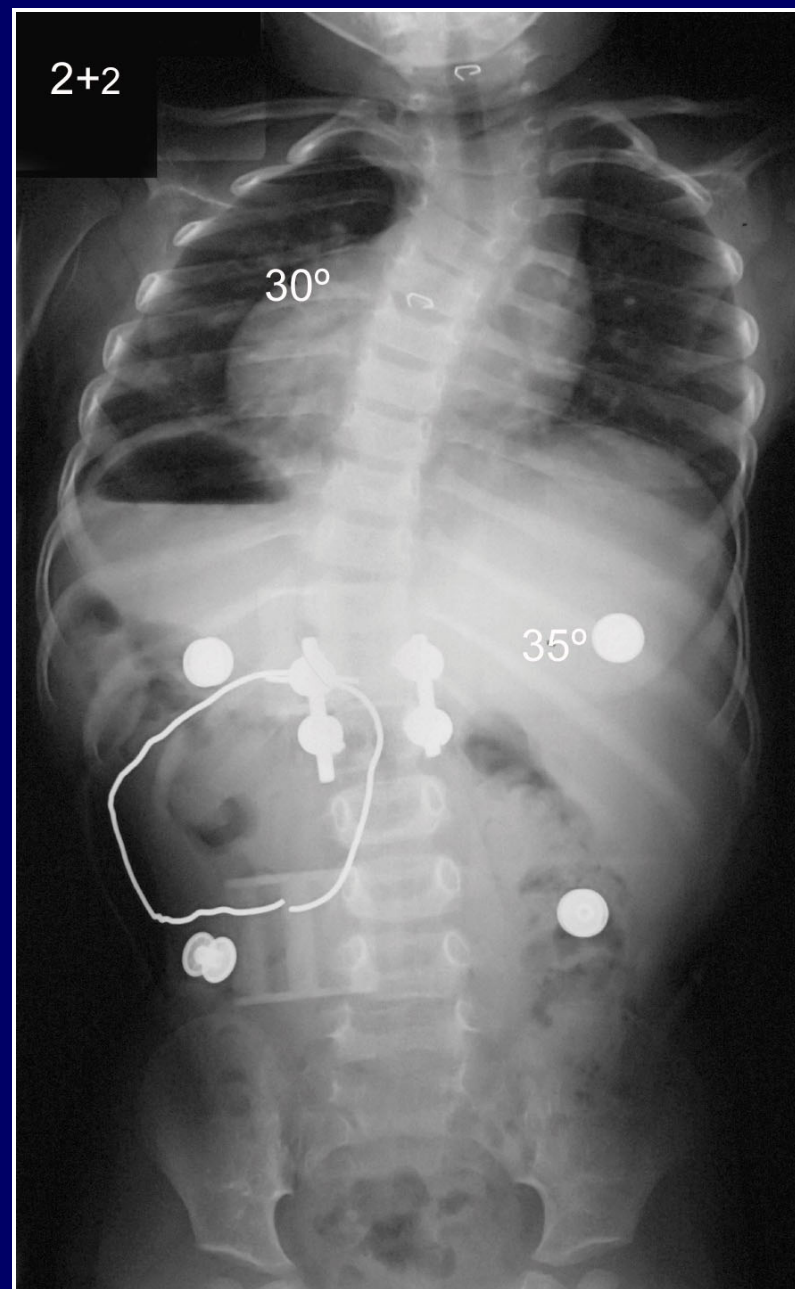
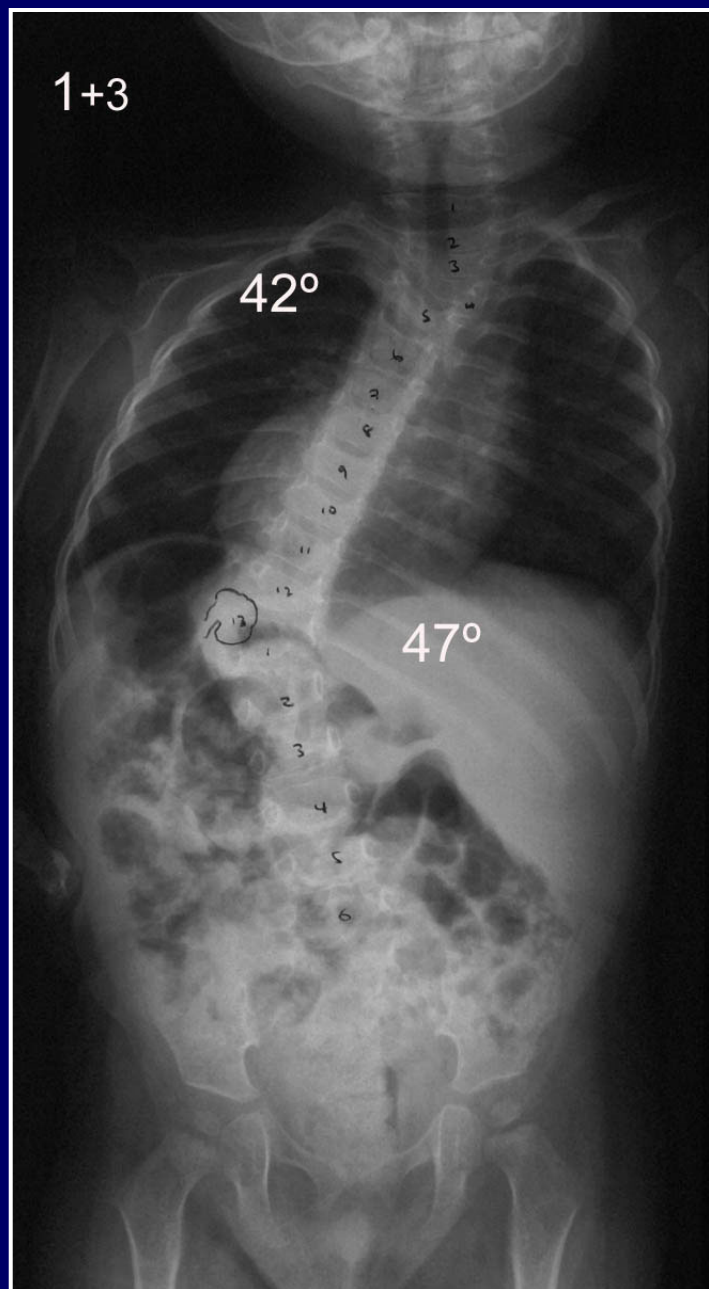


Complex vertebral anomalies

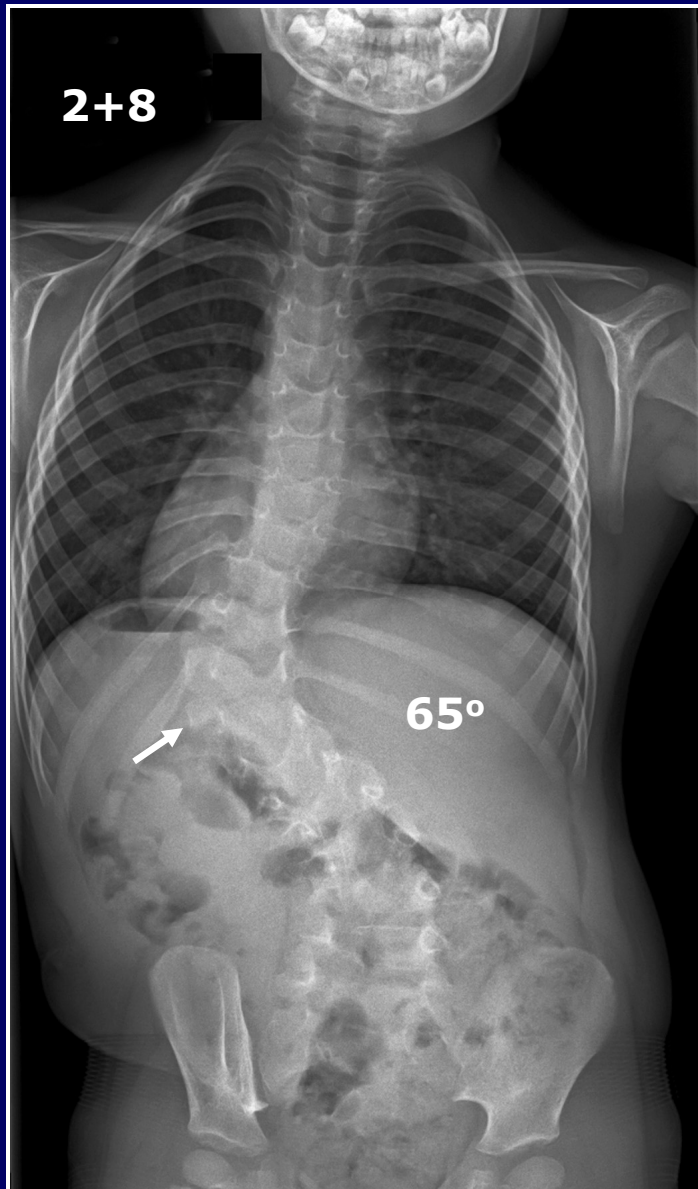


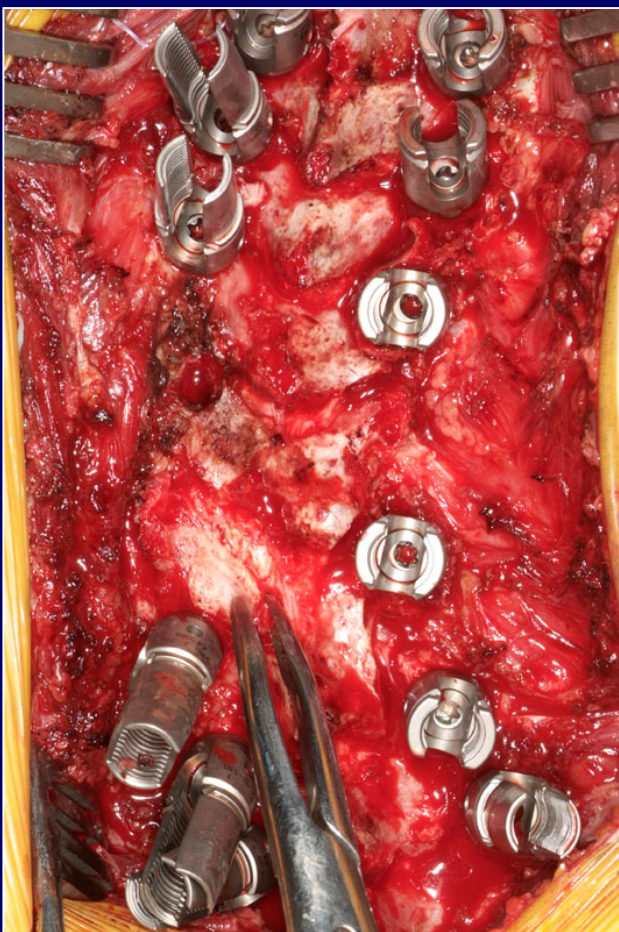


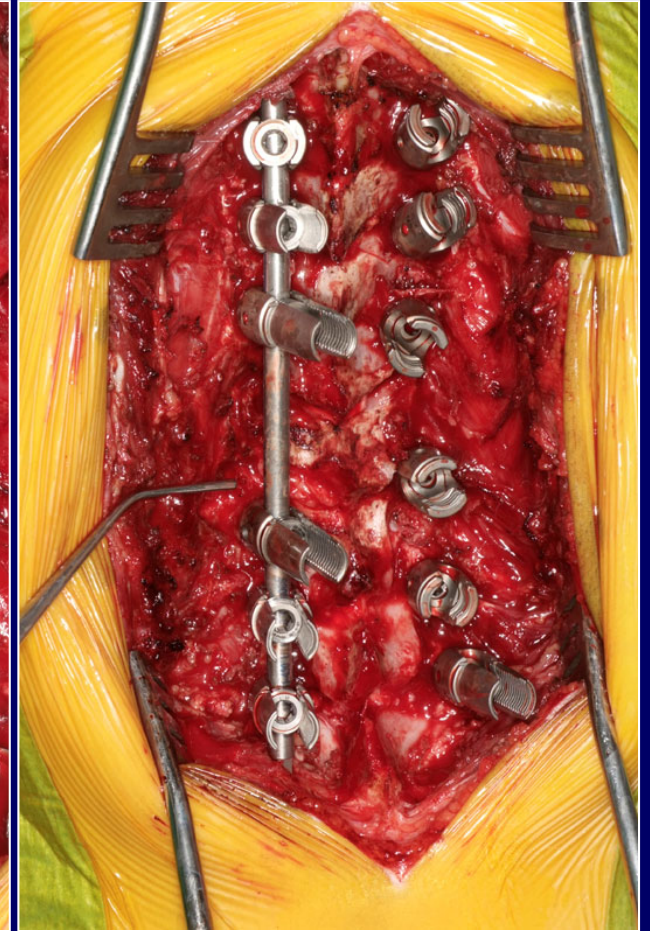


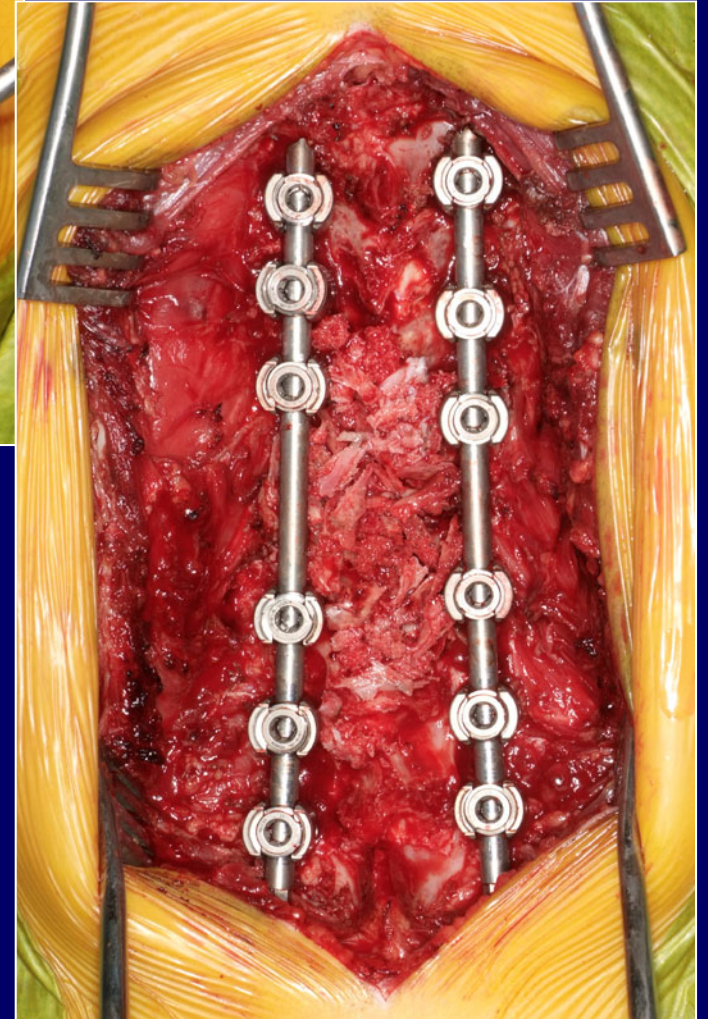
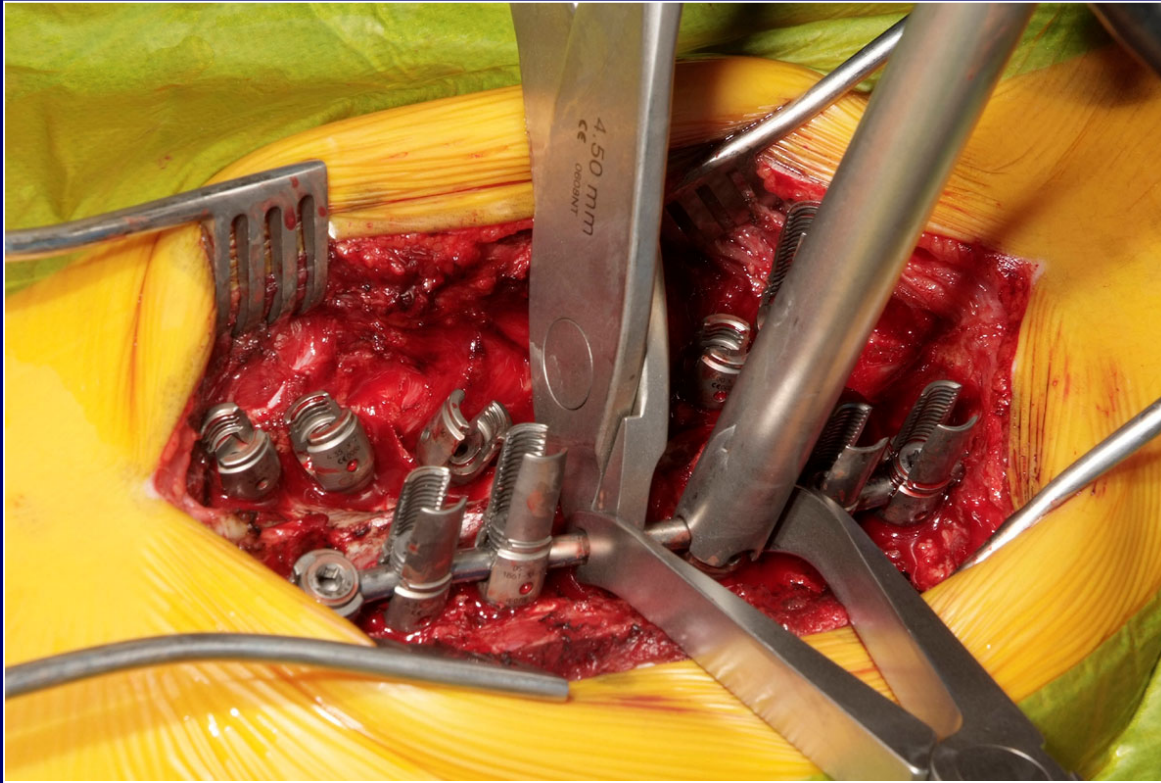


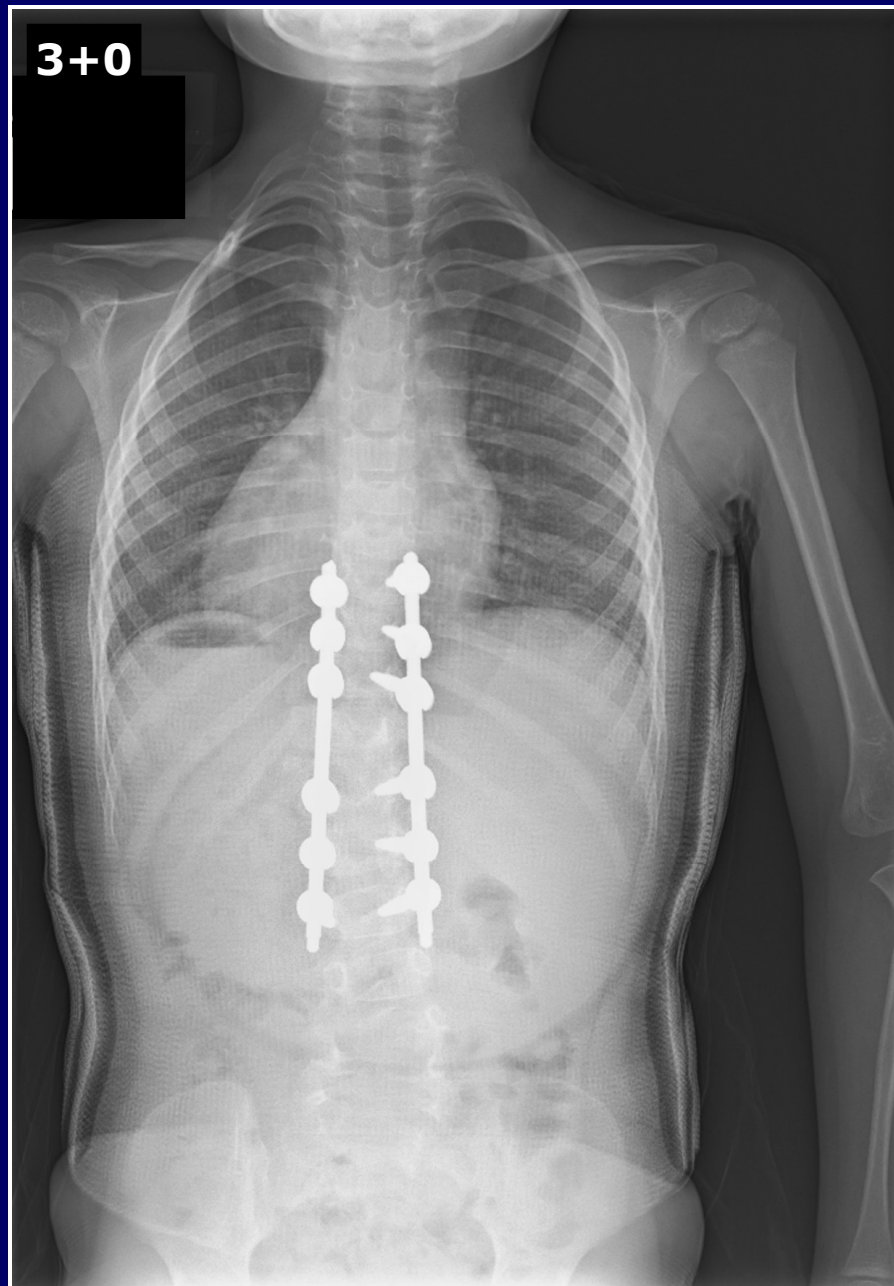
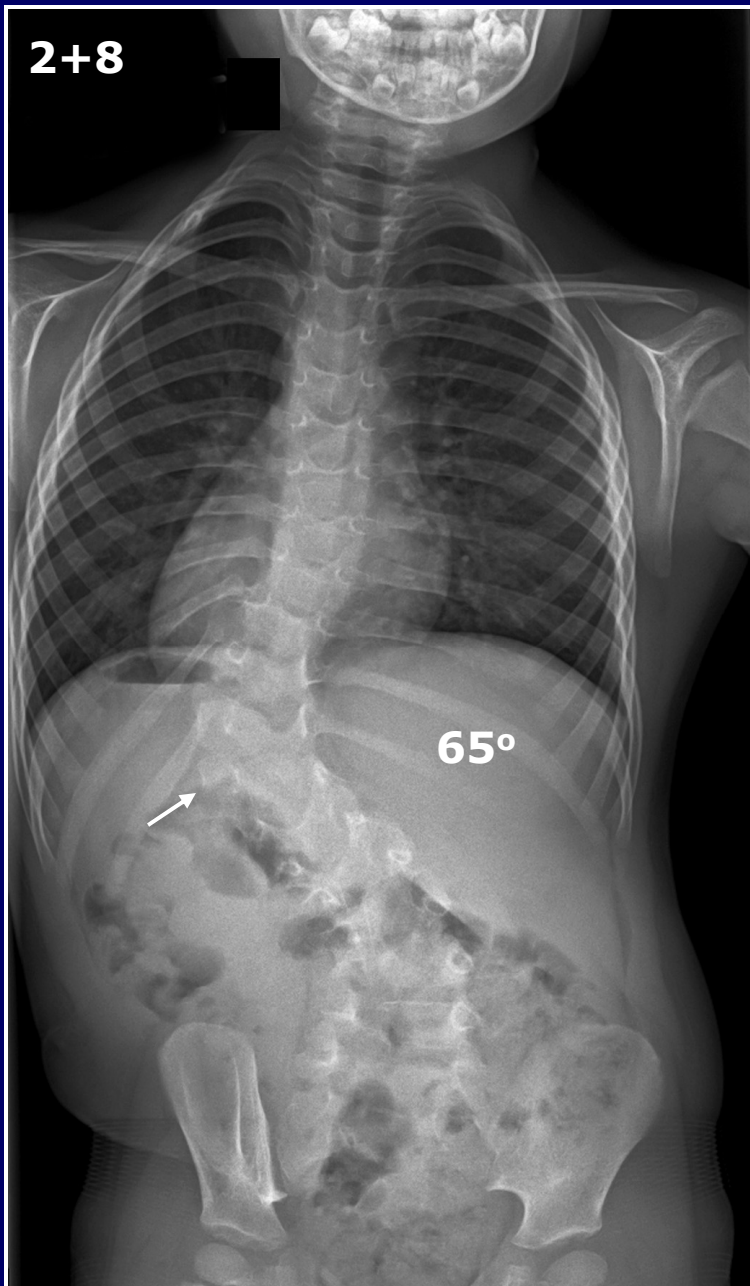
Hemivertebra resection

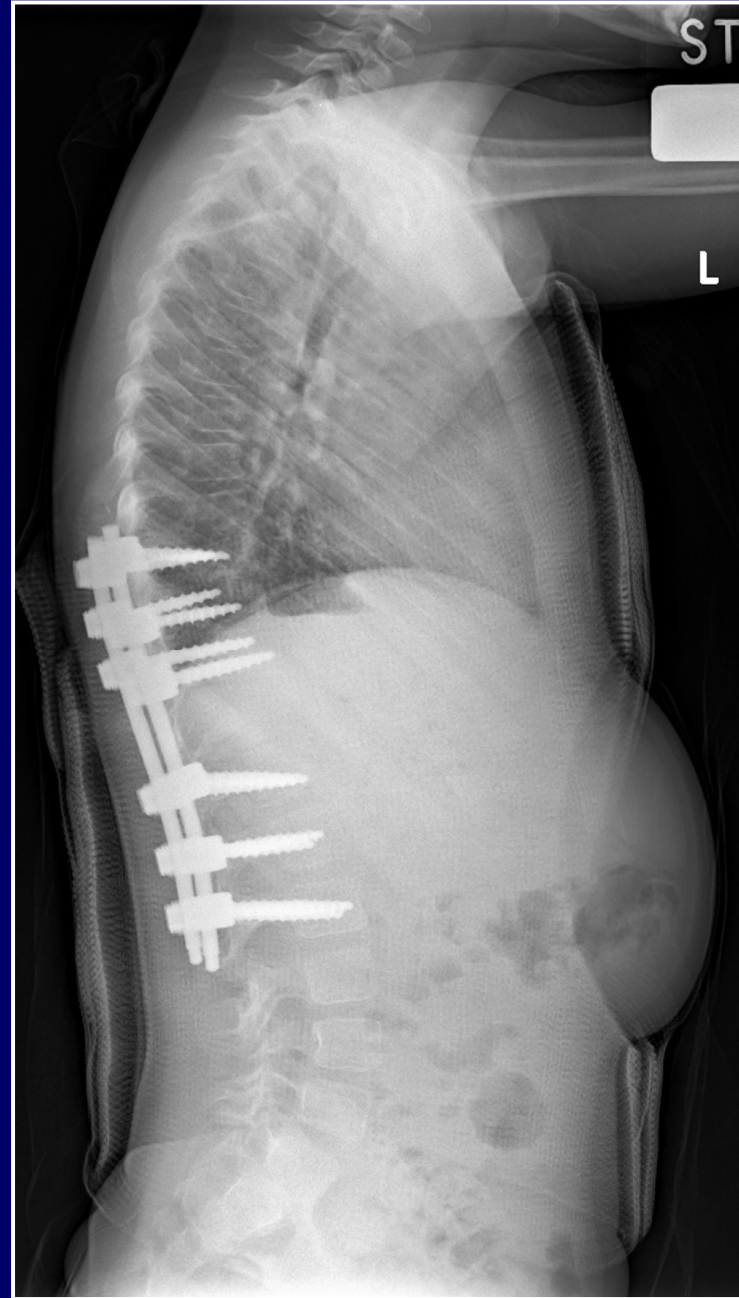




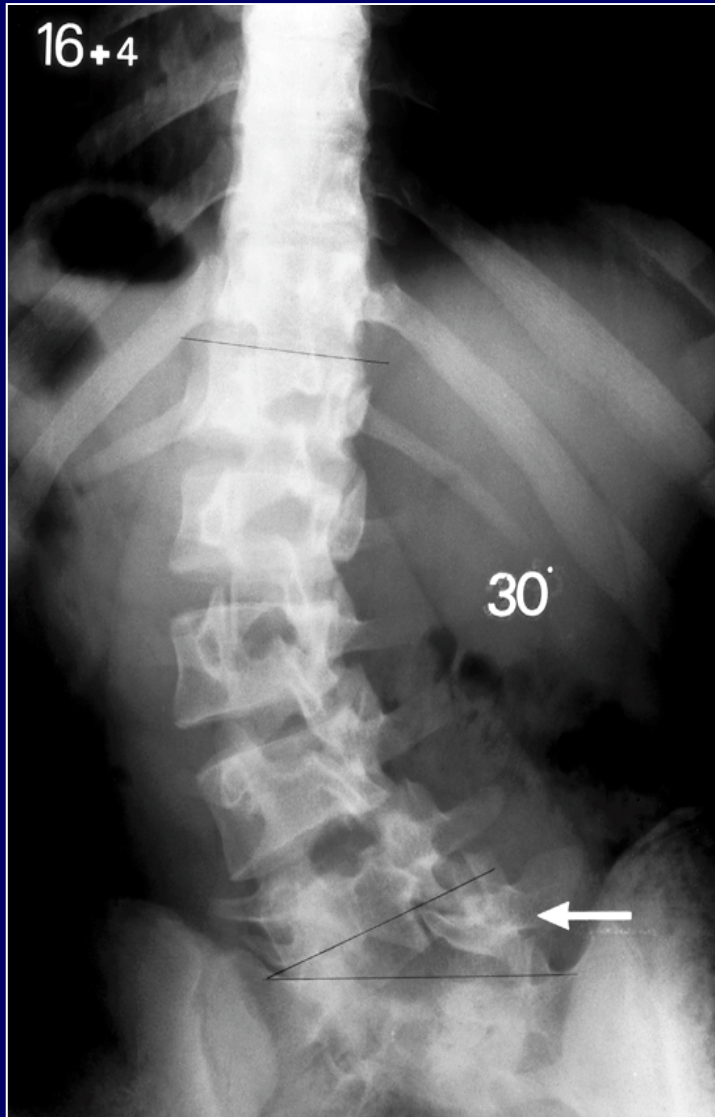




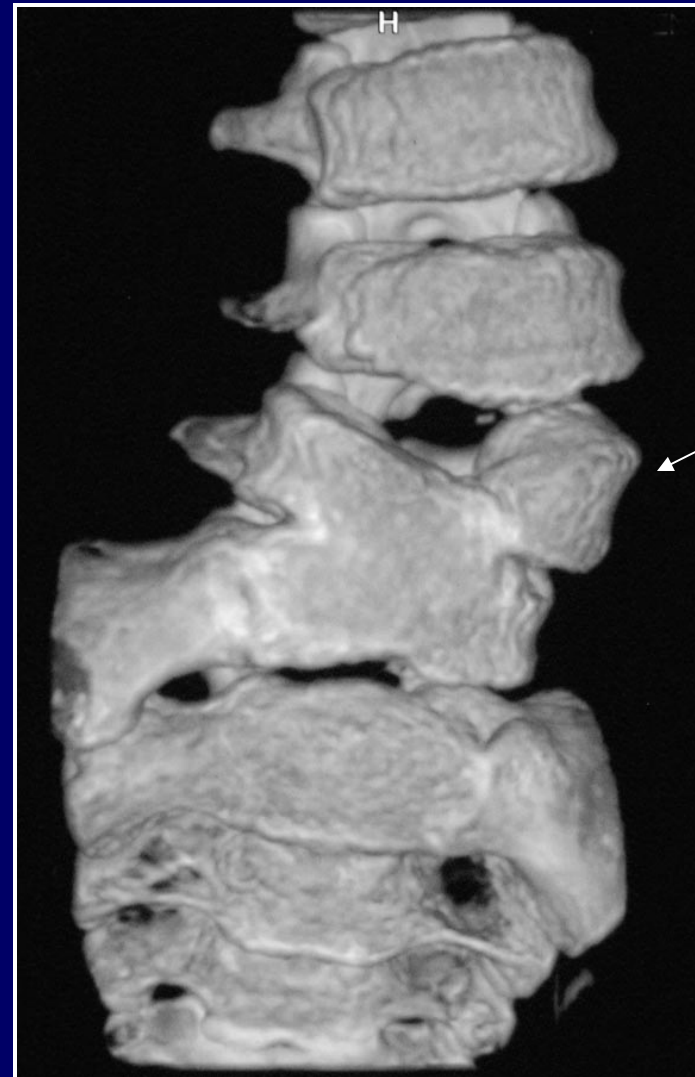
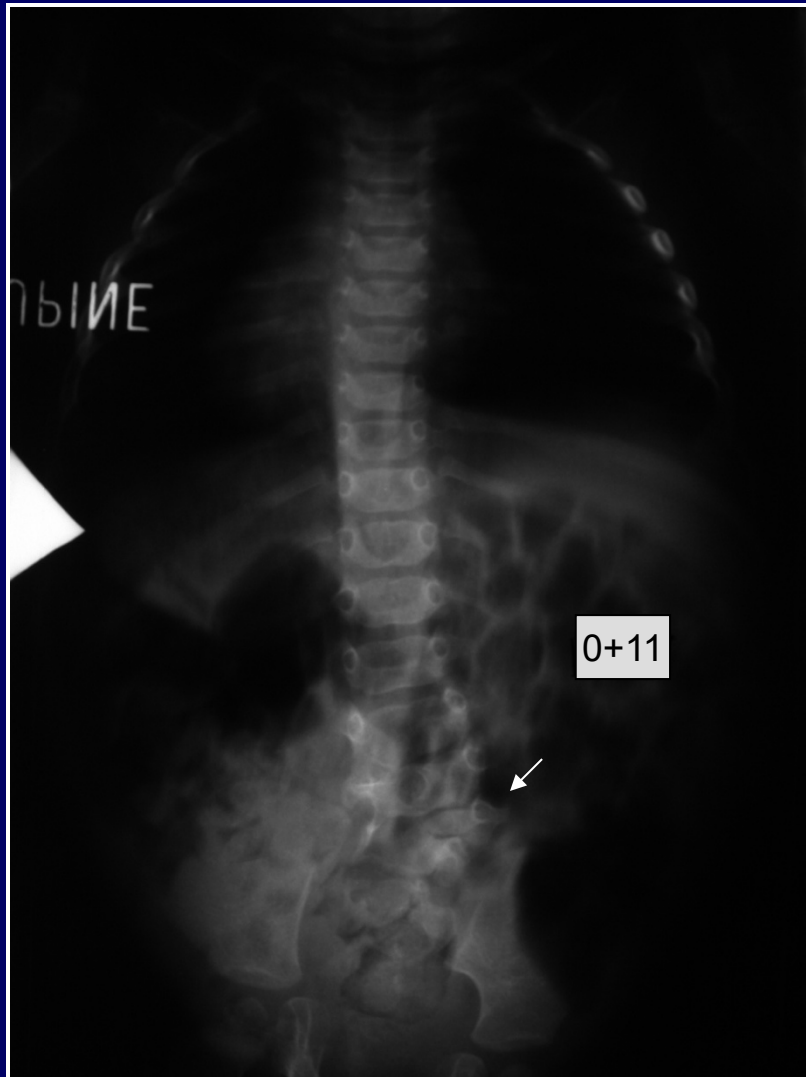




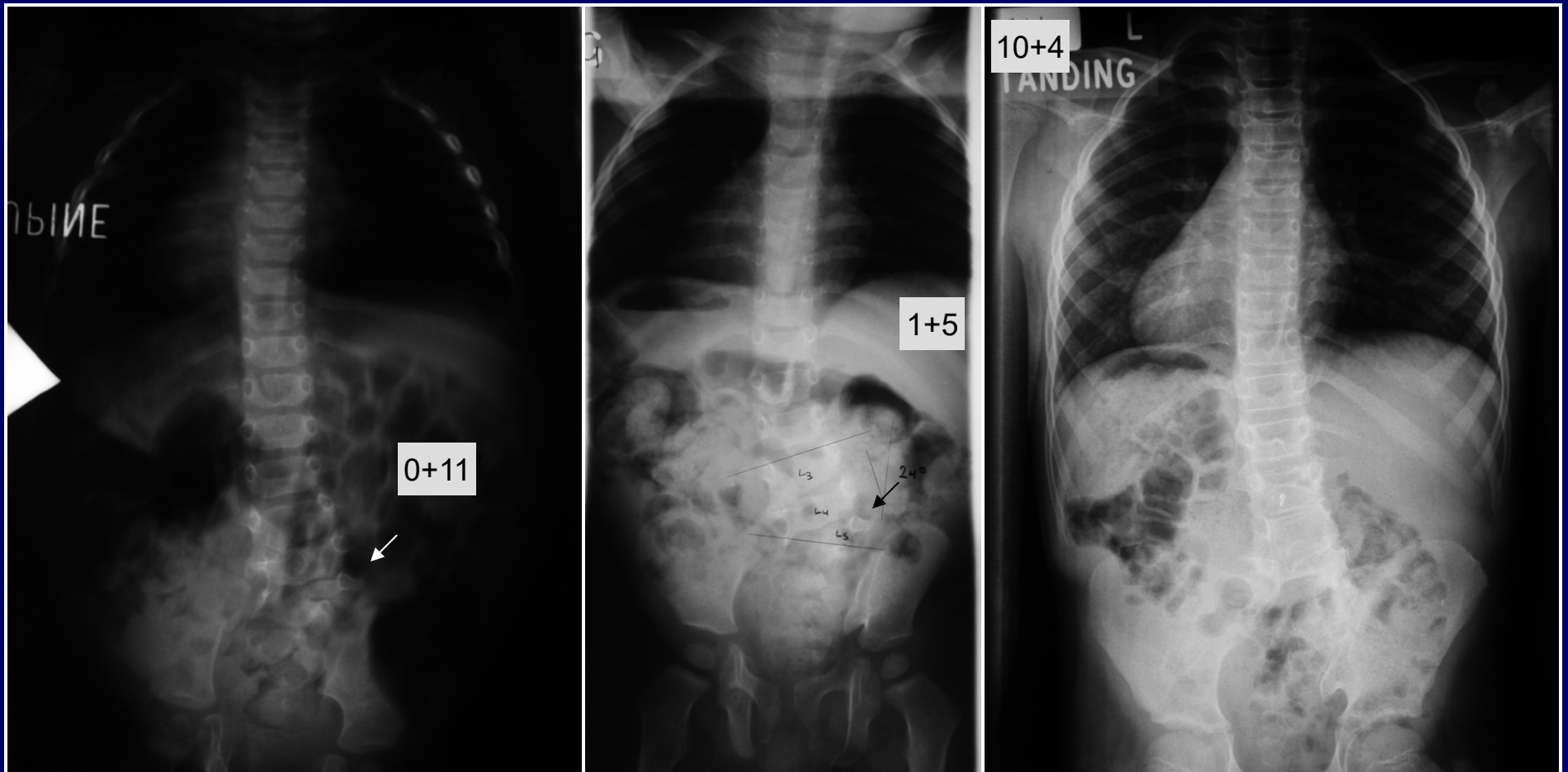
Lumbosacral hemivertebra



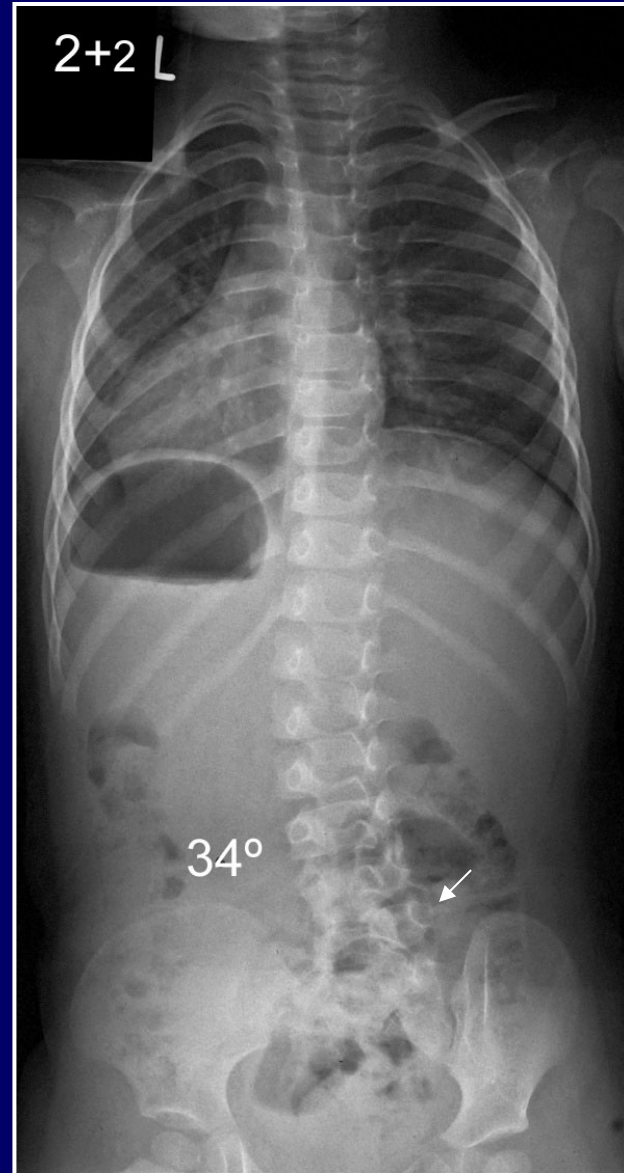
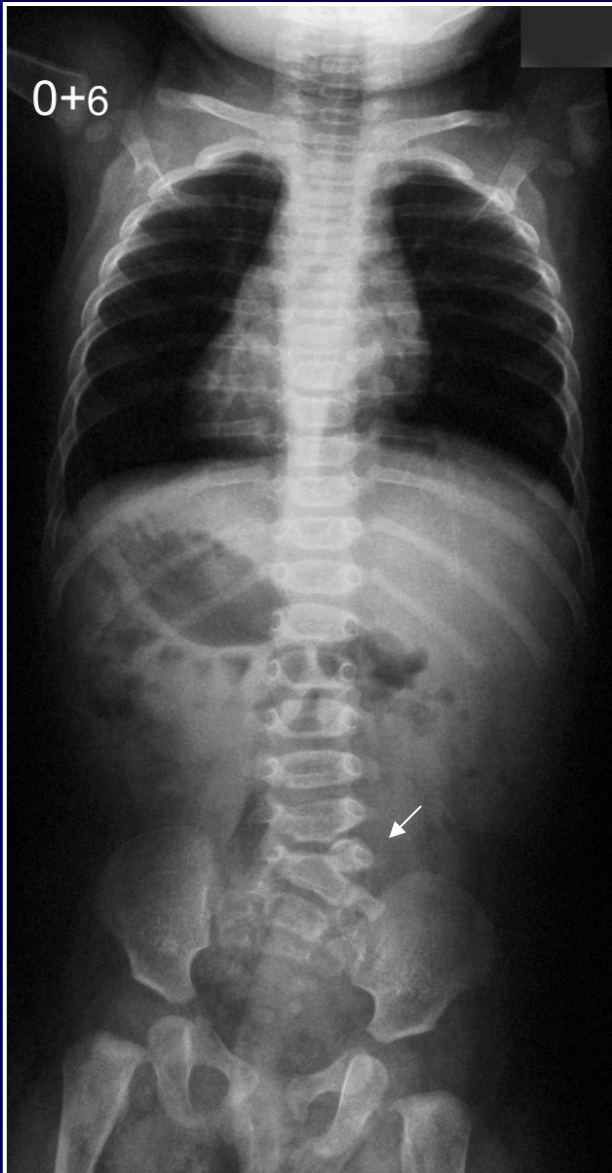
Lumbosacral hemivertebra

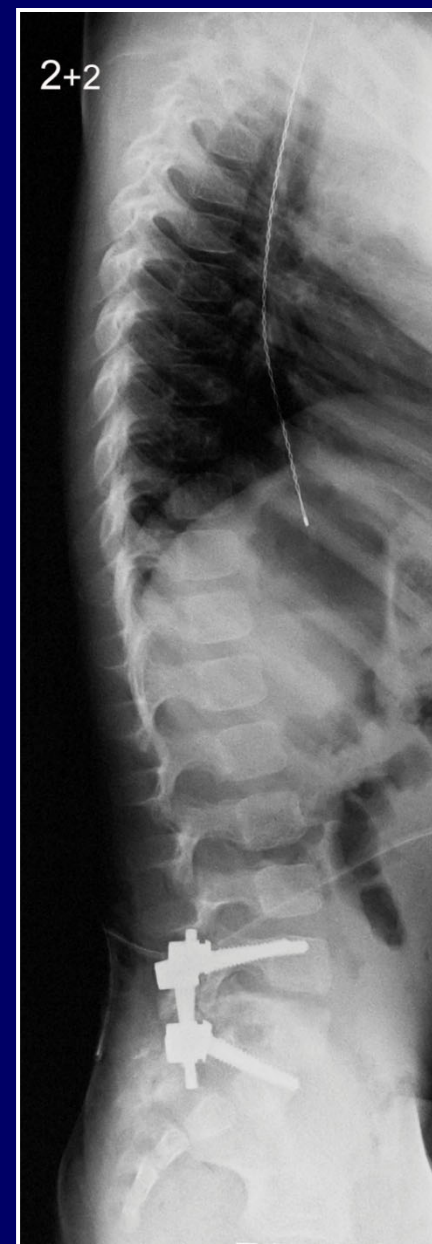
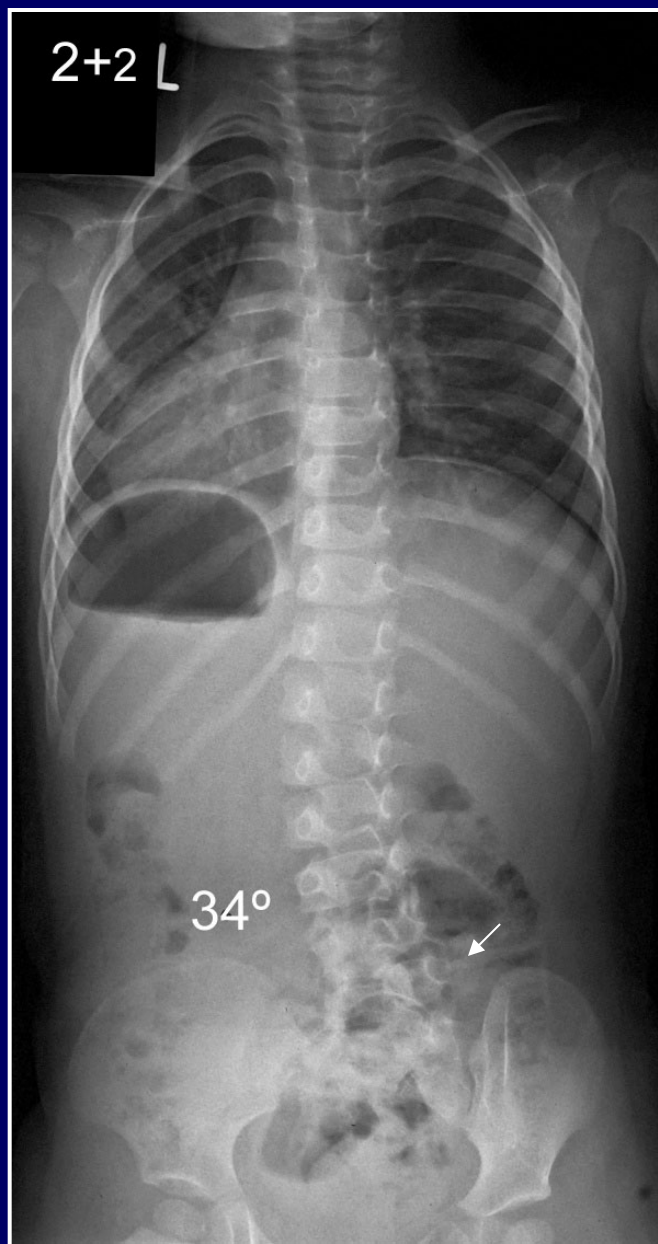


Posterior in situ fusion



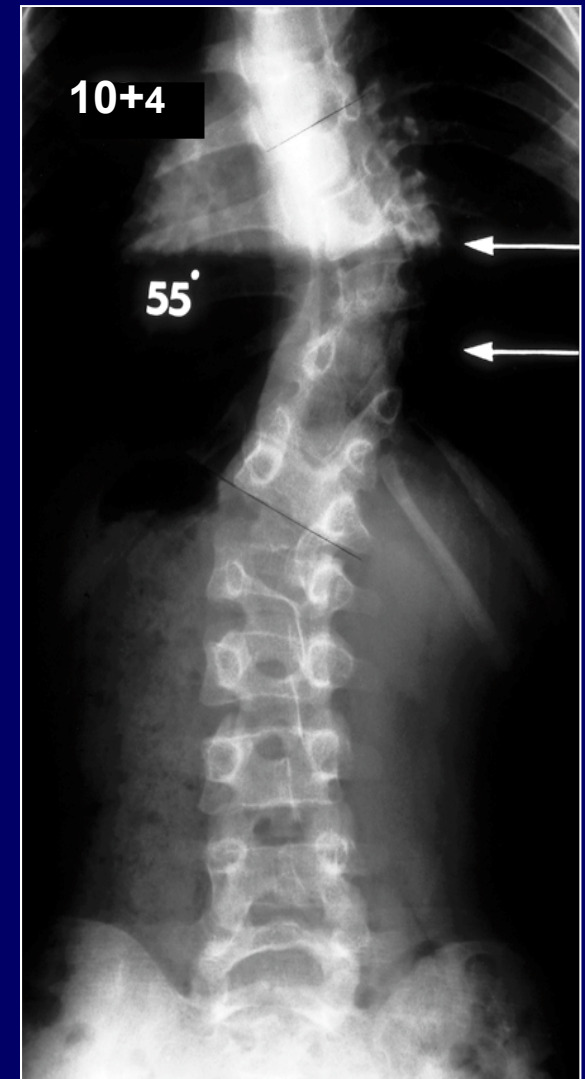
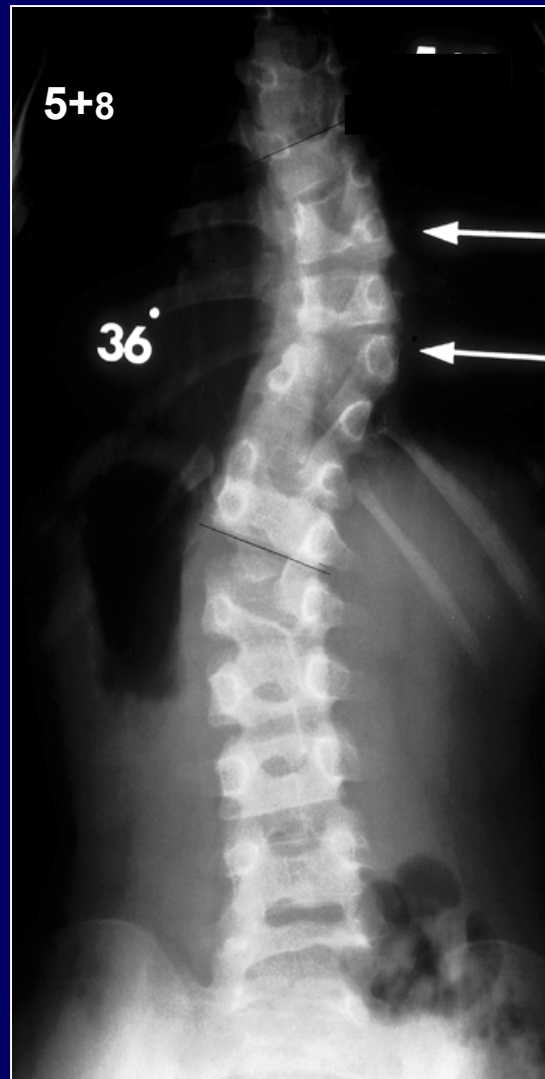
LS hemivertebra resection



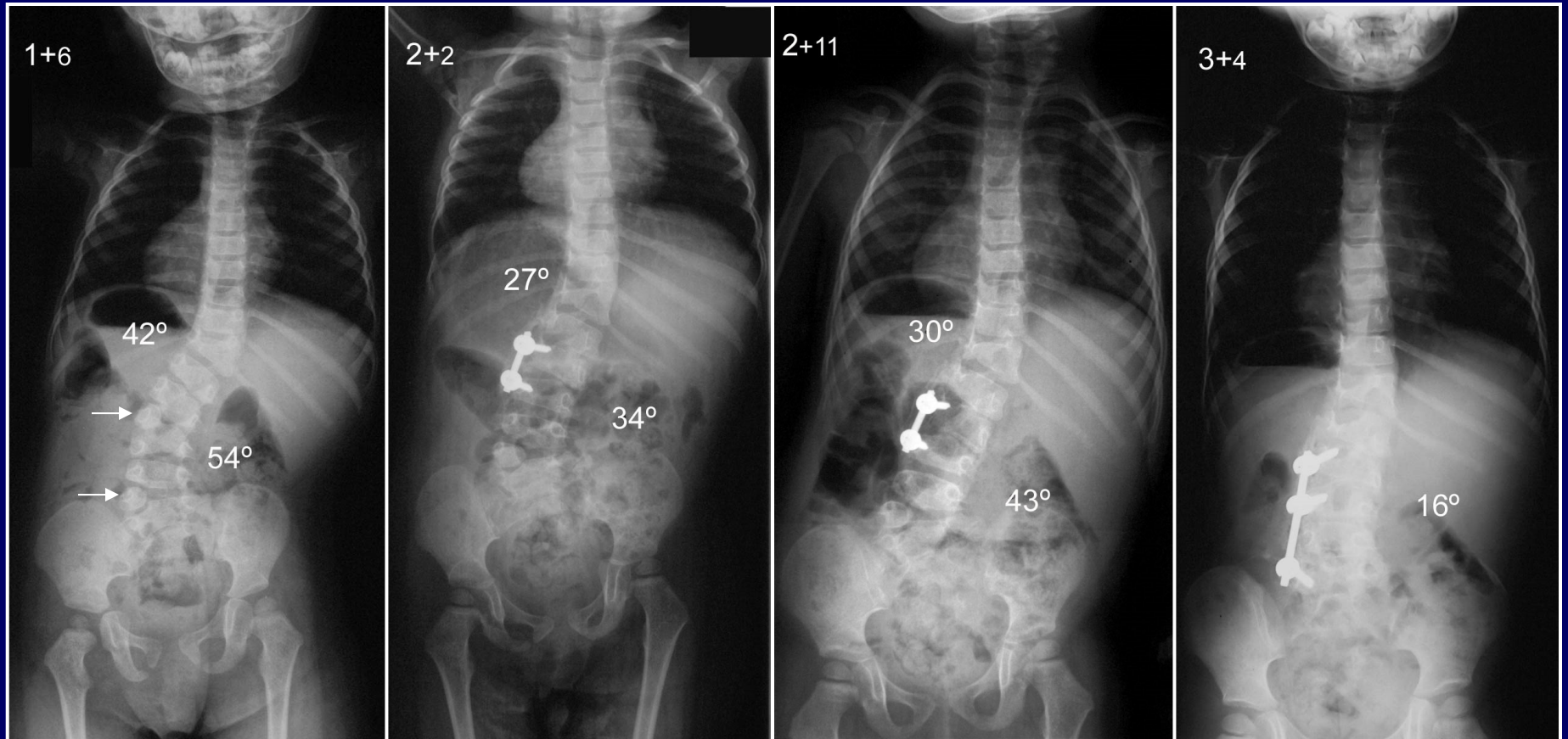


Two ipsilateral hemivertebrae

- scoliosis progresses at a mean rate of 3-4°/year
- exceeds 50° by 10 yrs
- reaches 70° by skeletal maturity
- early prophylactic surgical treatment is required

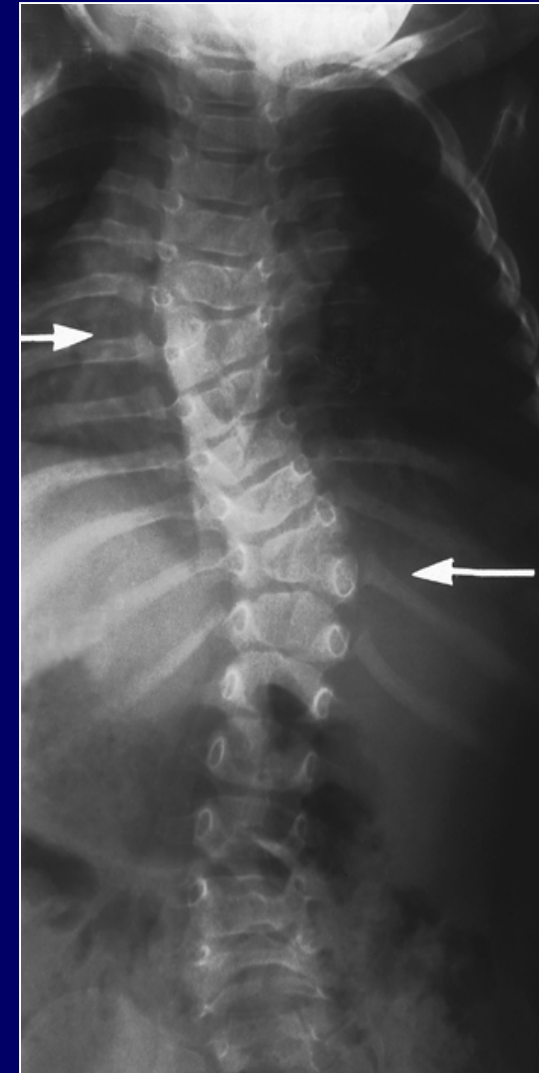


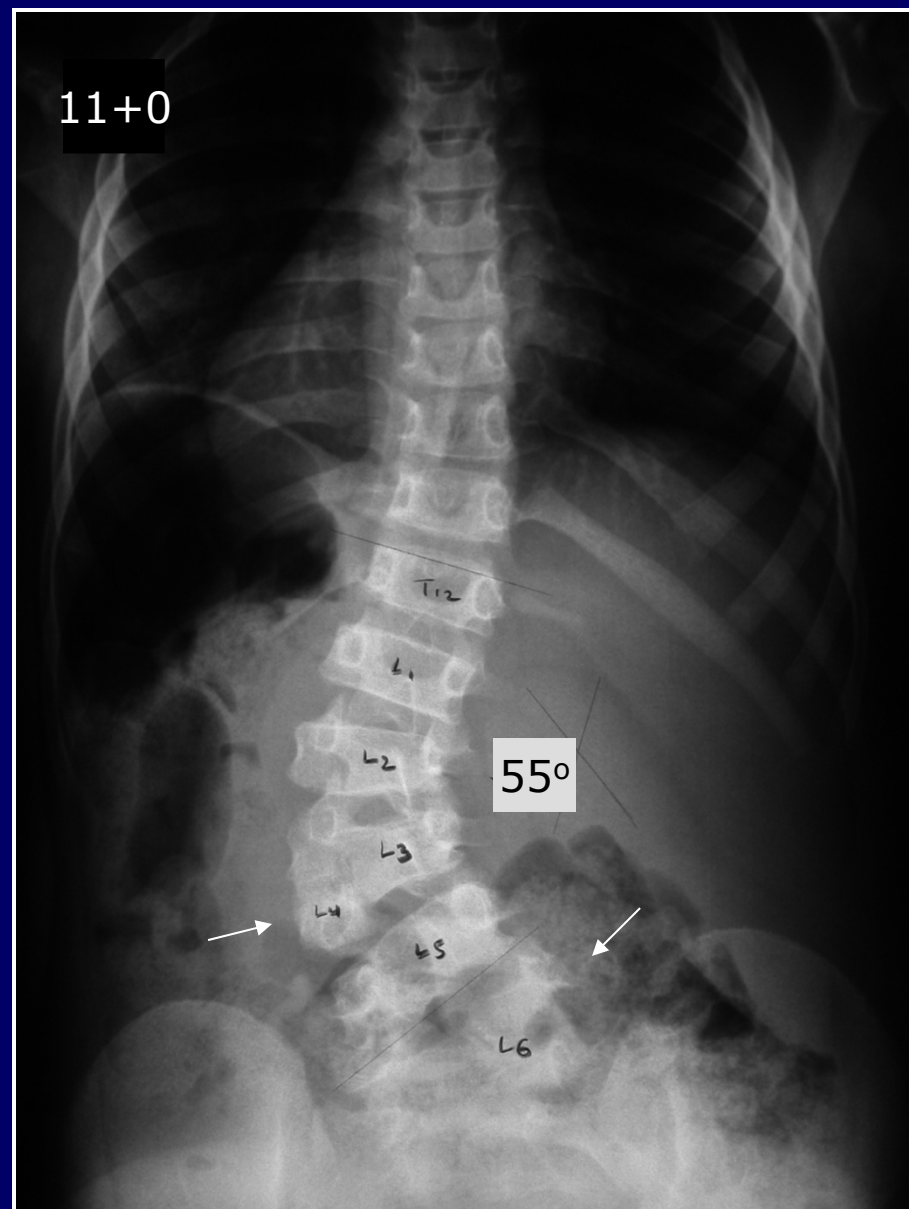
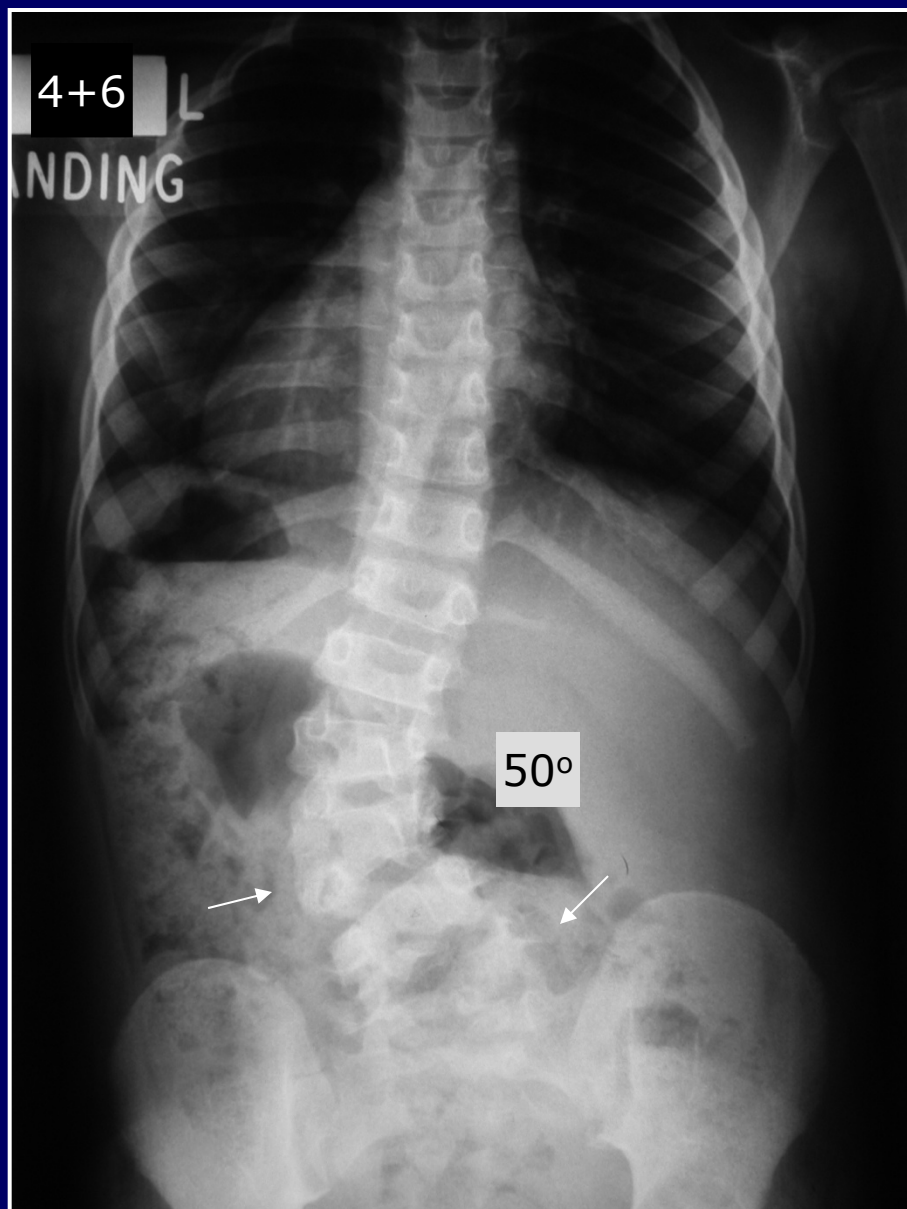
Two ipsilateral hemivertebrae



Two opposing hemivertebrae (hemimetameric shift)

- prognosis depends on site and relationship of the hemivertebrae
- if located in different regions of the spine they produce a significant deformity and usually require treatment





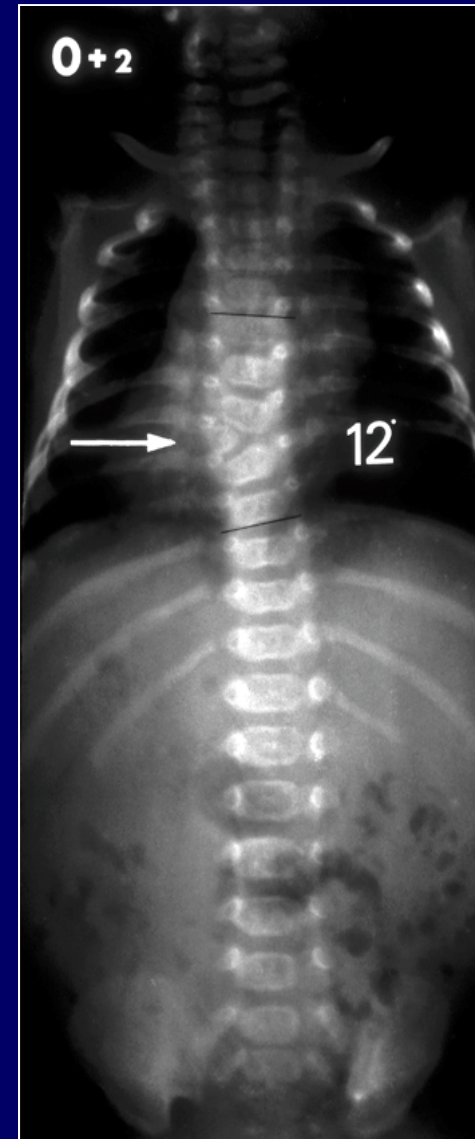
Semi-segmented hemivertebra (22%)

- slowly progressive scoliosis
- usually does not exceed 40° at skeletal maturity
- treatment is often not required, except LS hemivertebra



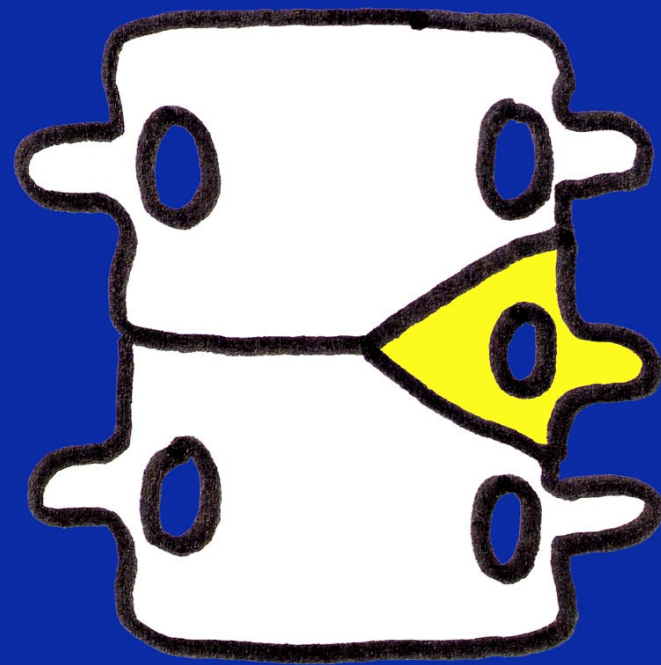
Incarcerated hemivertebra (13%)

- hemivertebra sets into a niche scalloped out of the adjacent vertebrae
- produces minimal deformity due to poor growth potential
- treatment is not required



Unsegmented hemivertebra

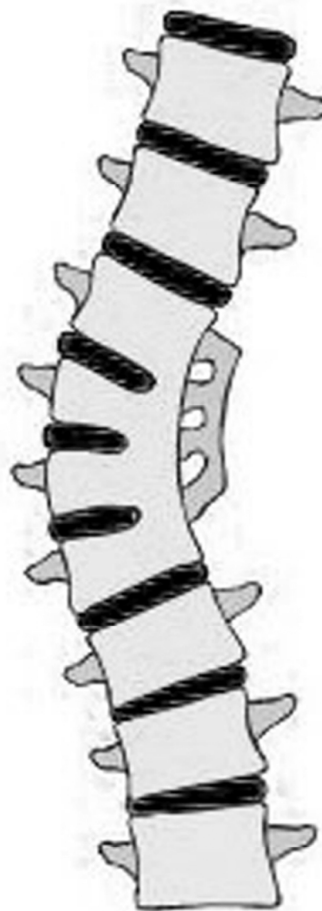
- usually occurs in the thoracic spine
- has no growth potential
- does not cause progressive scoliosis
- no treatment is required



Failures of Vertebral Segmentation



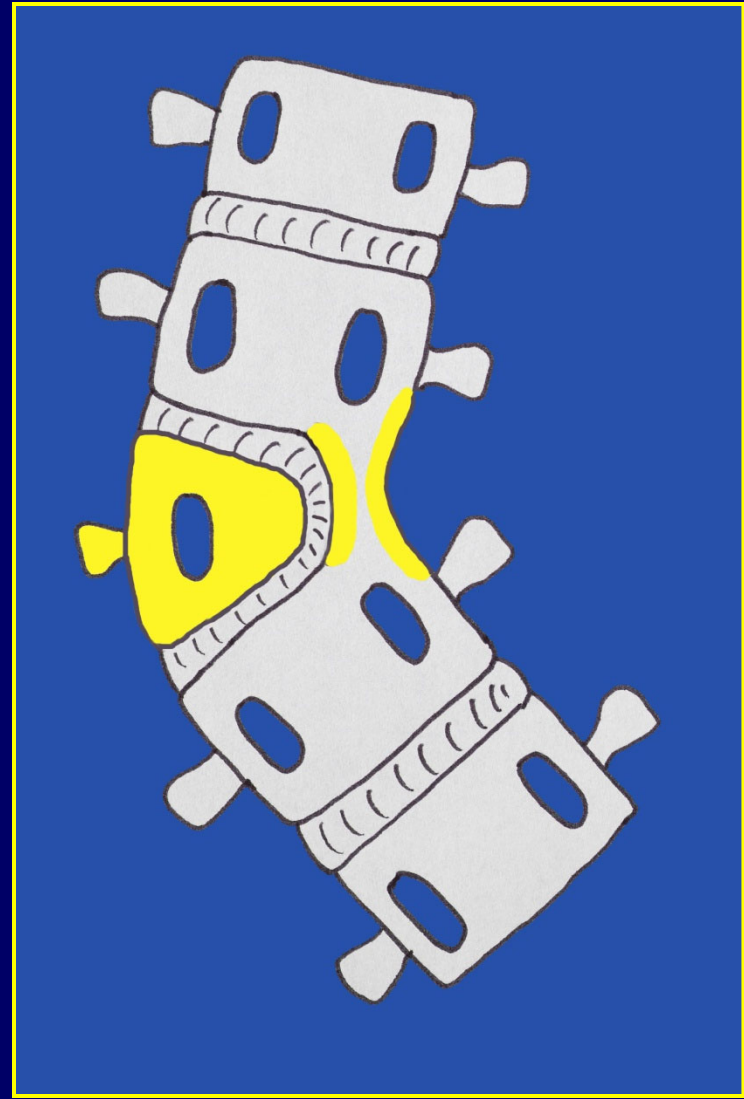
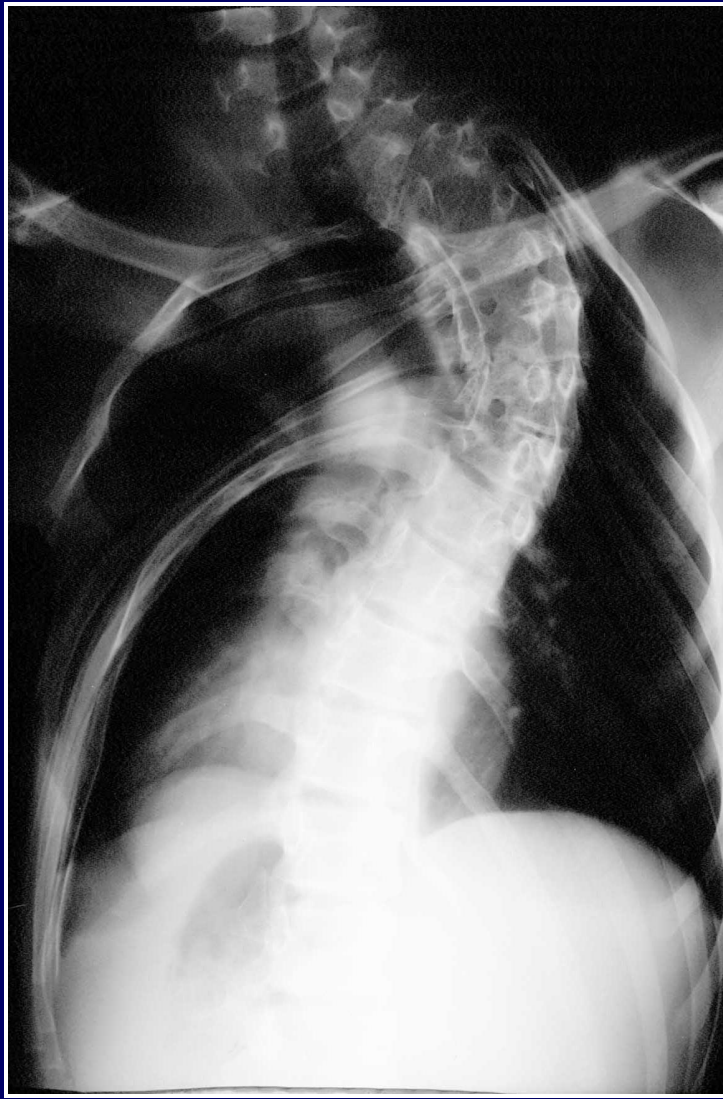
Bilateral



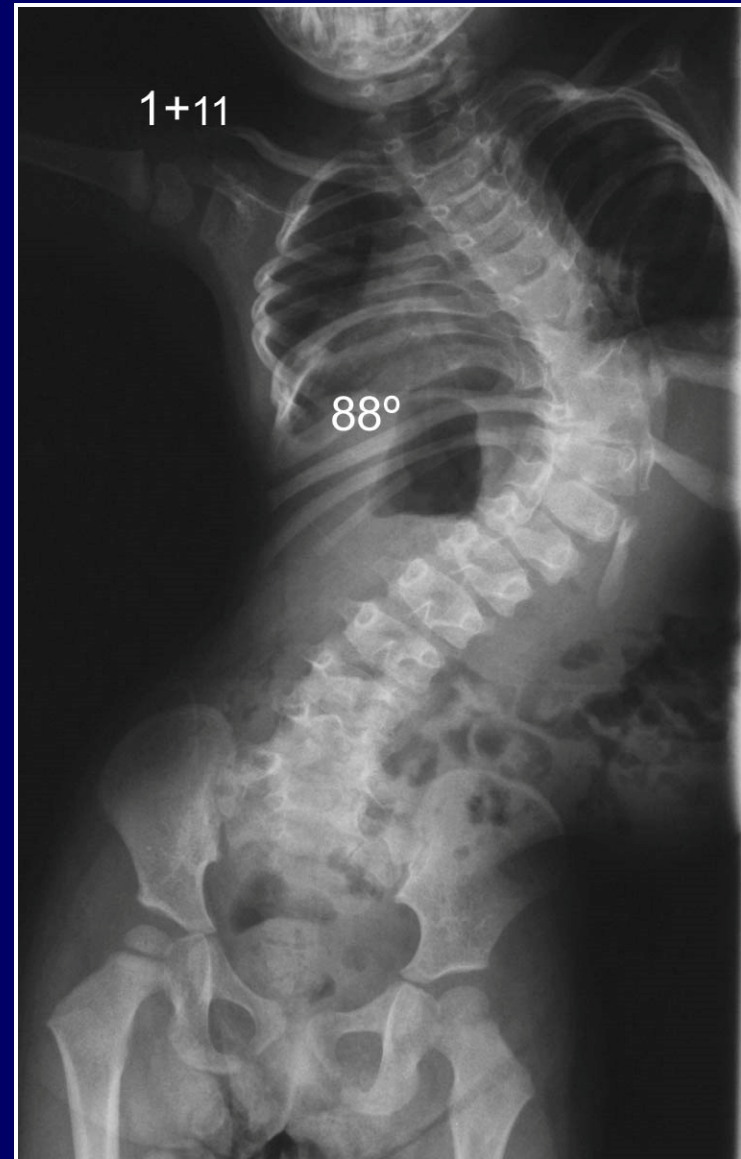
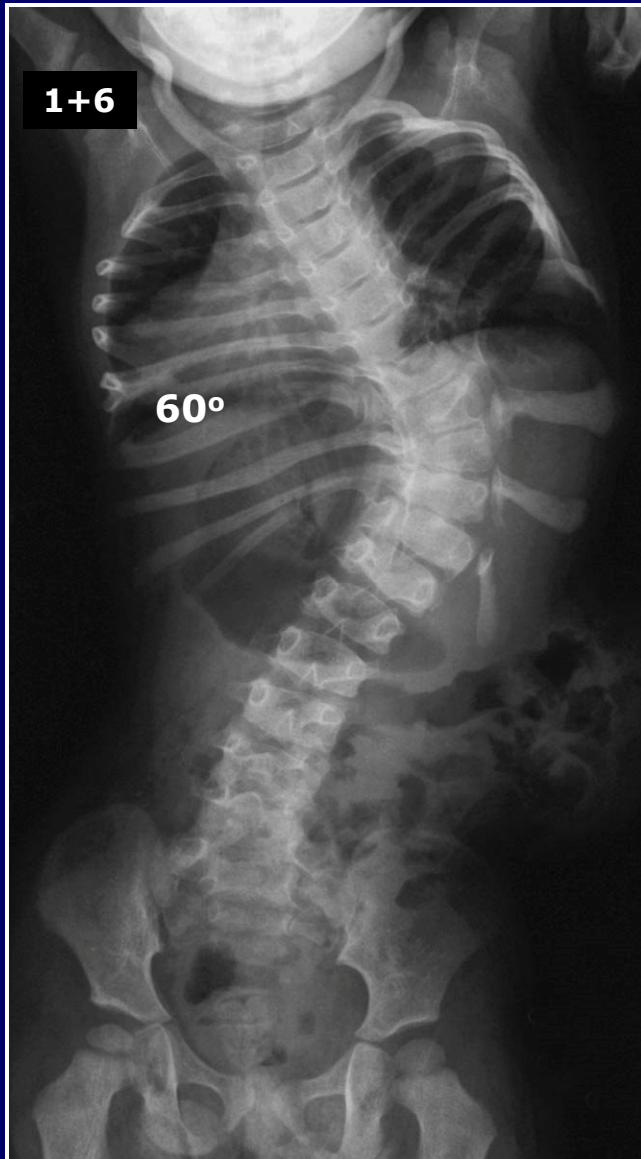
Unilateral



Unilateral Failure of Segmentation

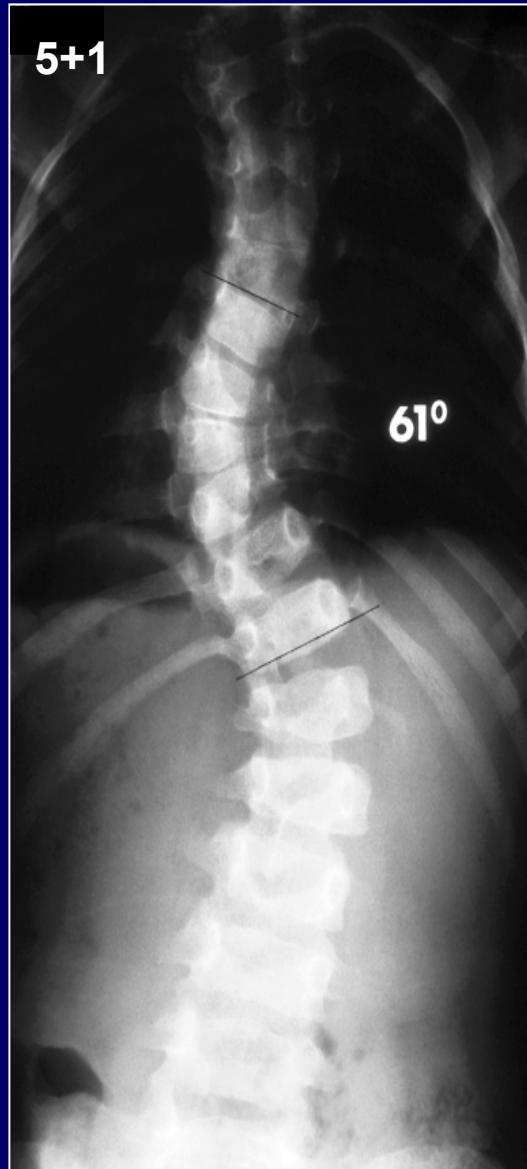


Extent of Bar/Convex growth



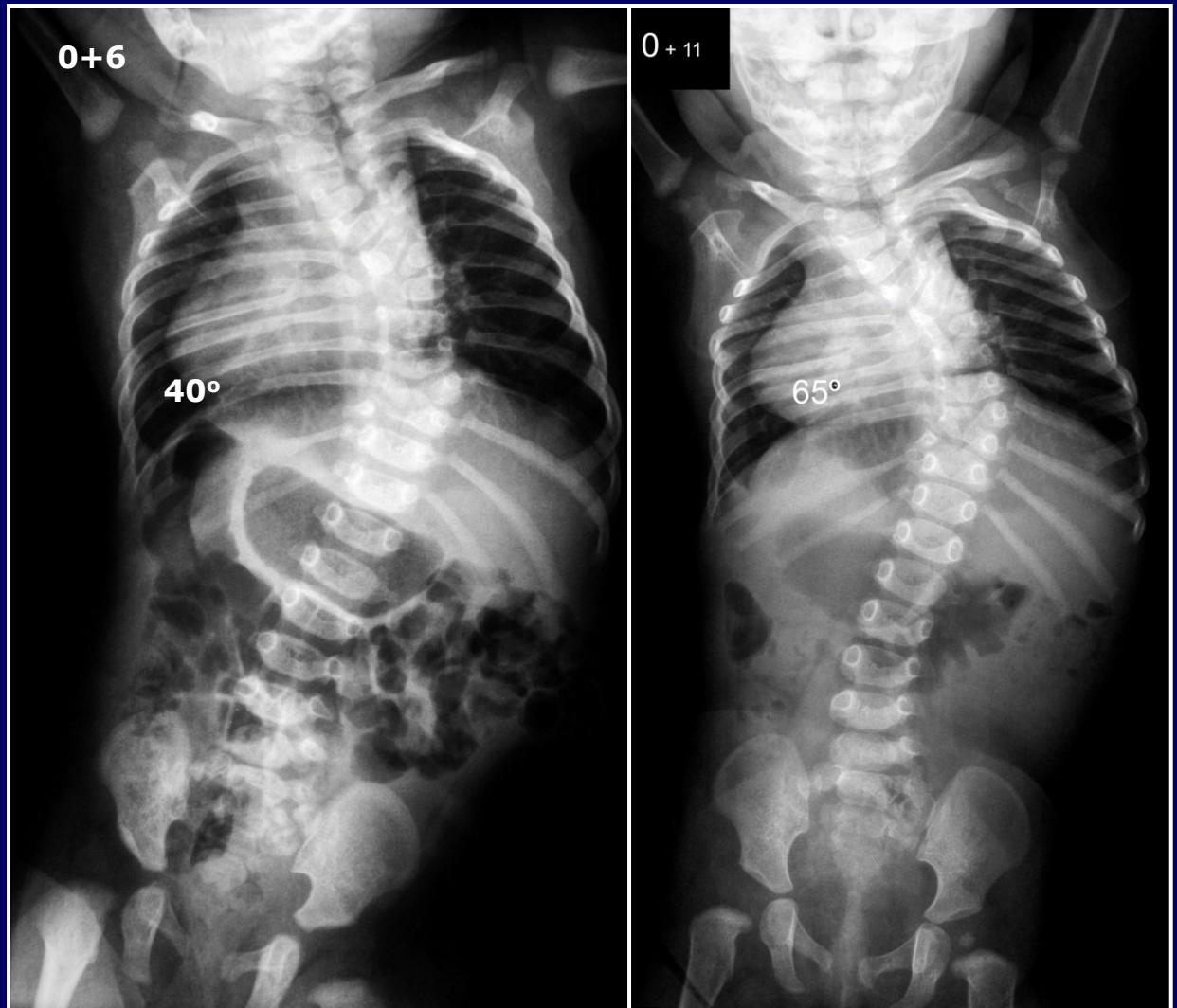
Unilateral Unsegmented Bar

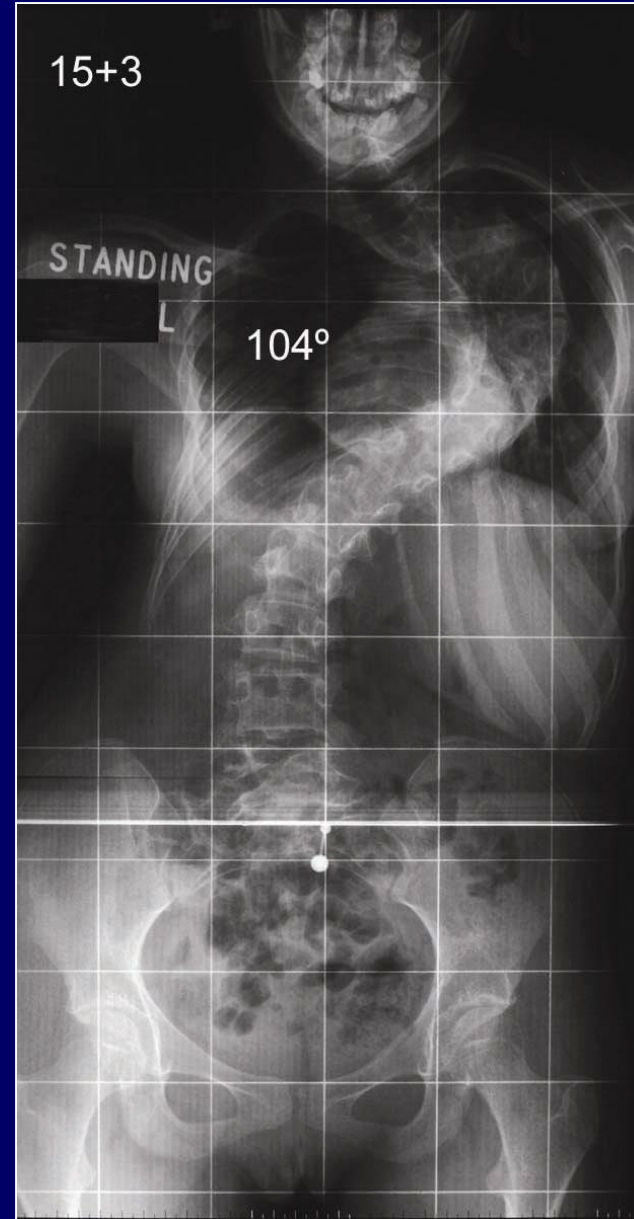
- mean rate of progression 5° /year
- majority exceed 50° by 10 yrs
- all require early prophylactic treatment



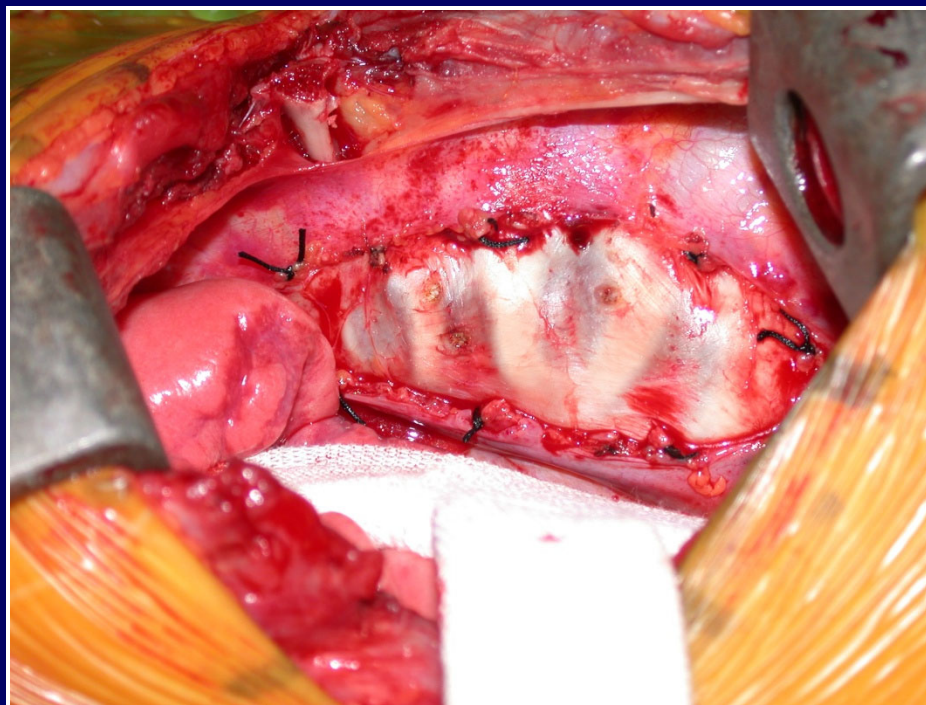
Unsegmented Bar and Hemivertebrae

- mean rate of progression $6^{\circ}/\text{year}$
- all exceed 50° by age 2 yrs

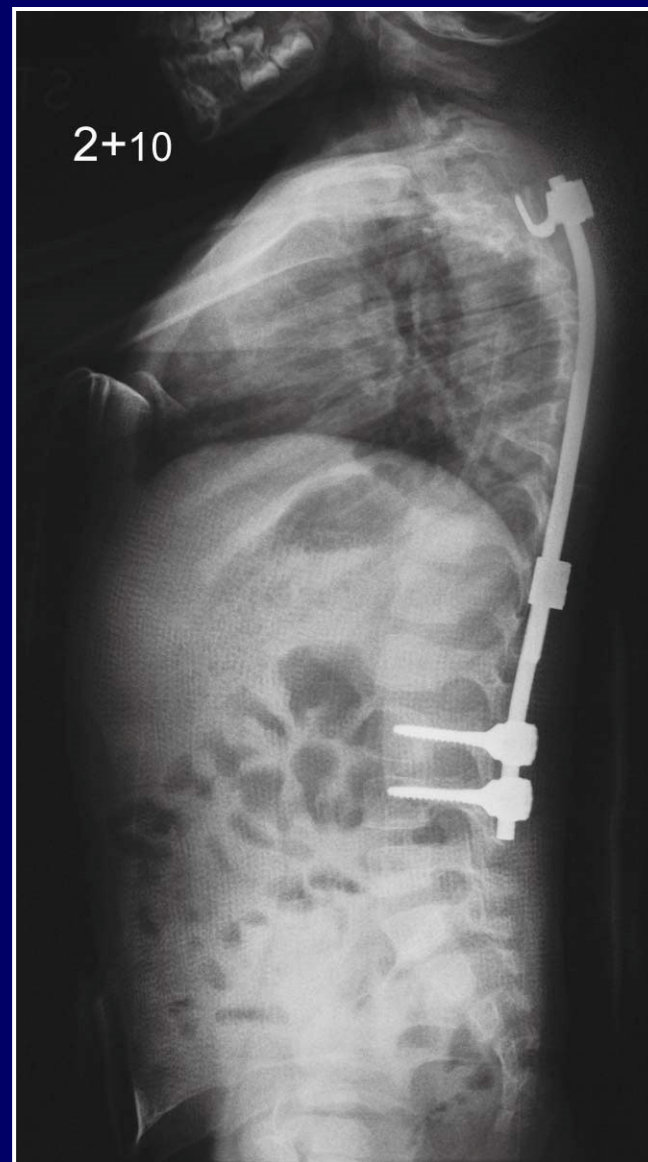
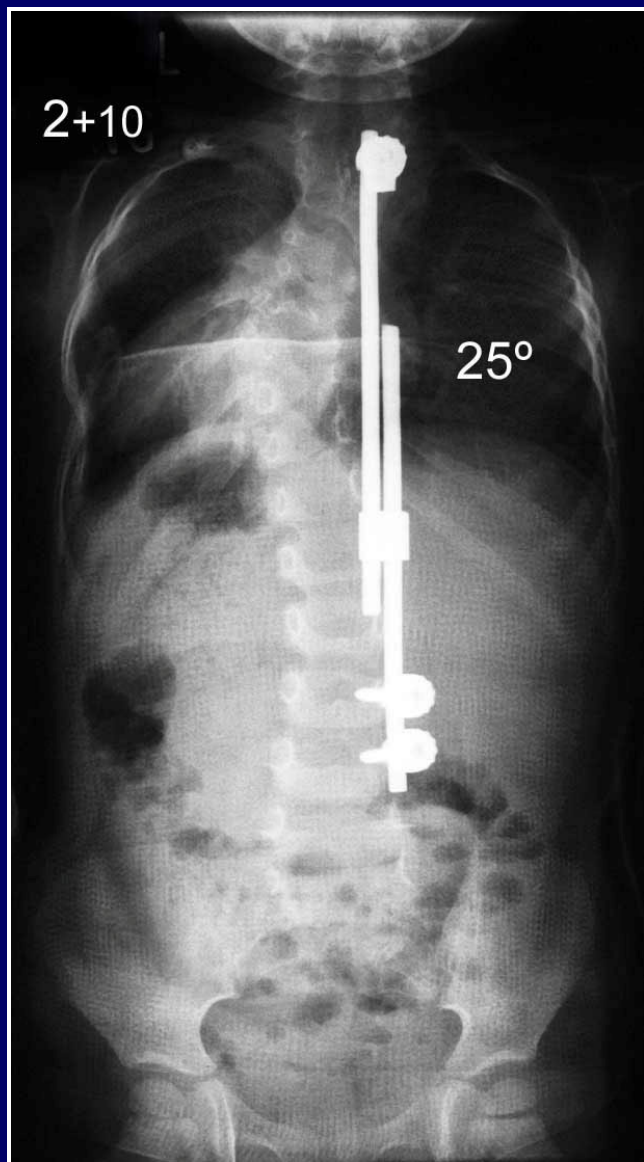




Convex fusion-GR

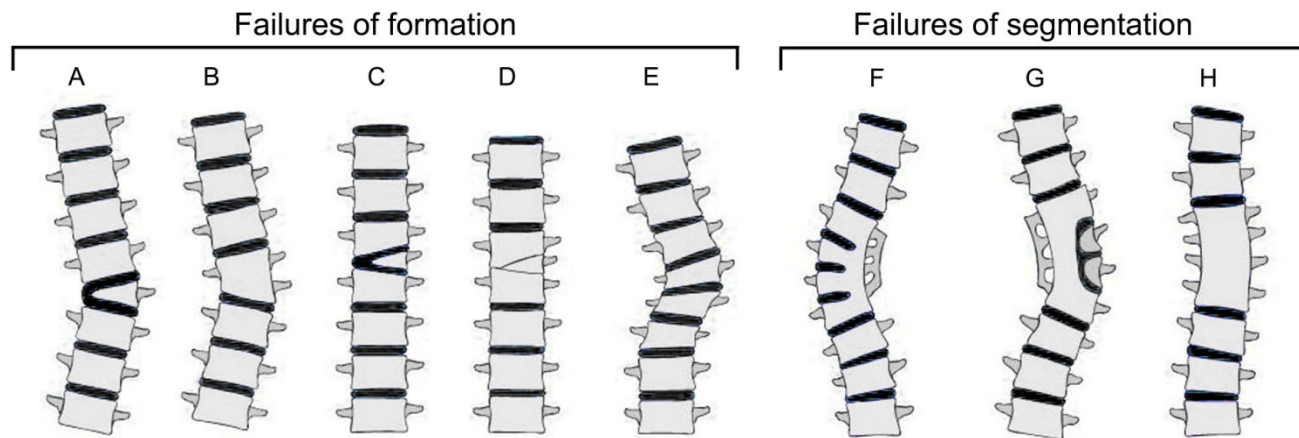


Convex fusion-GR

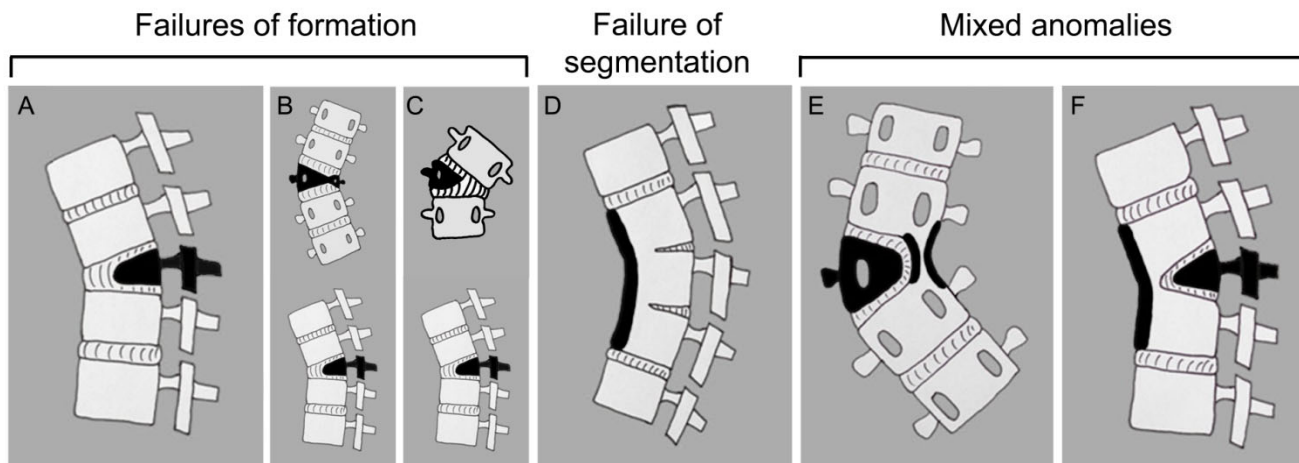


Classification

Congenital Scoliosis

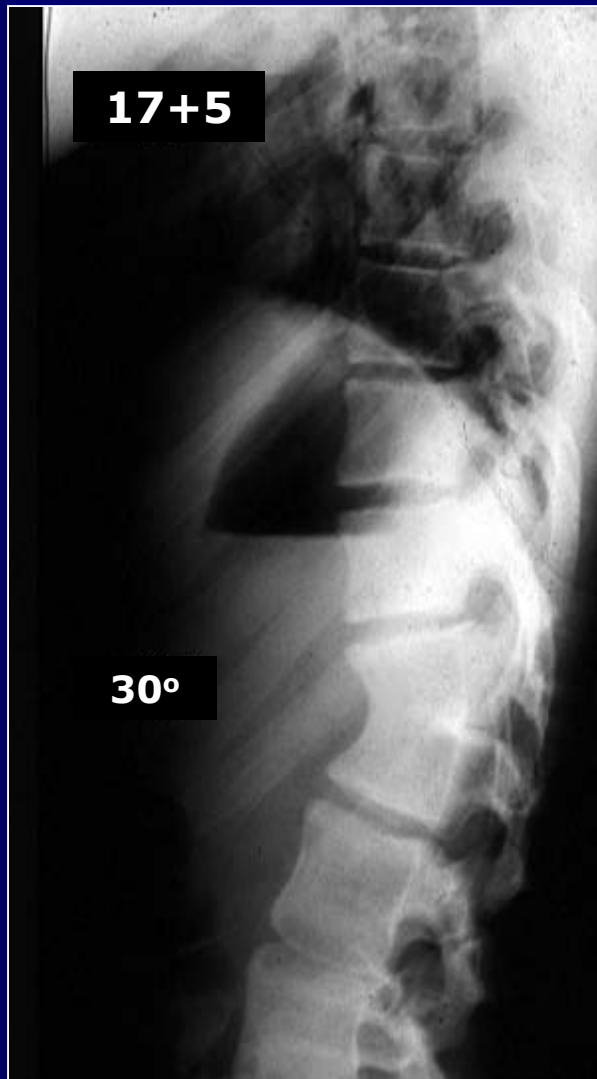


Congenital Kyphosis and Kyphoscoliosis



Alignment of the spinal canal

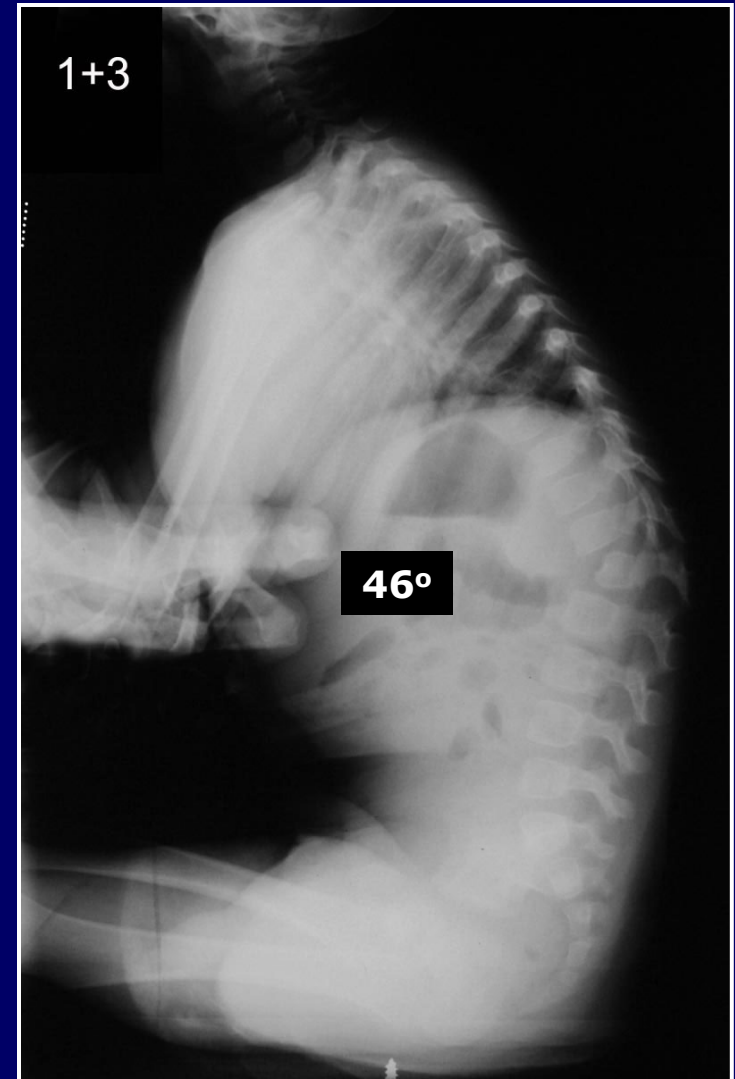
Type II-aligned



Type I-aligned

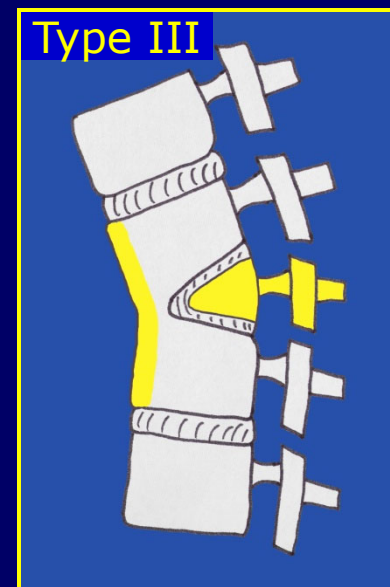
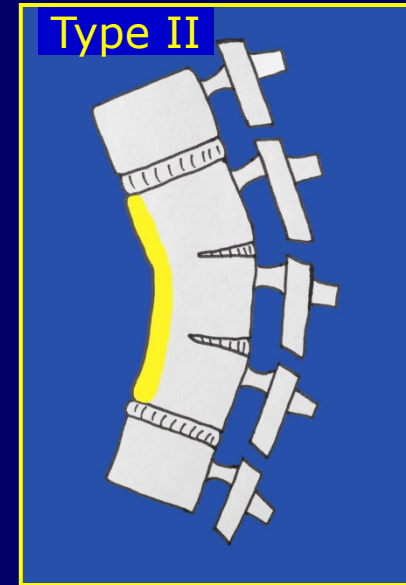
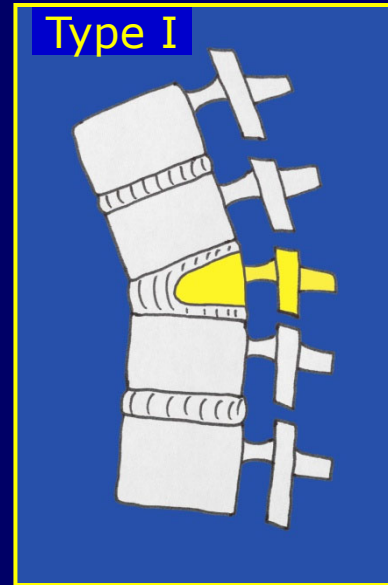


Type I-displaced

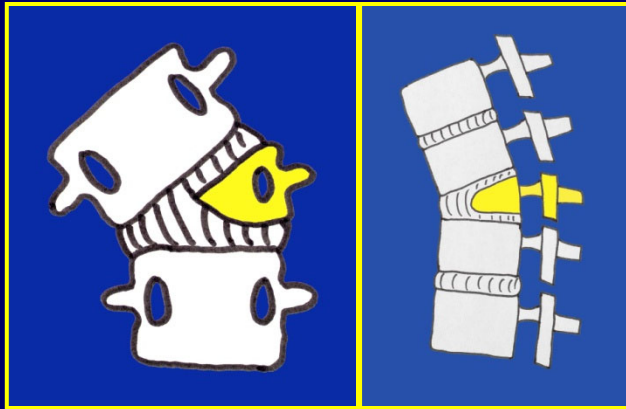


Prognosis

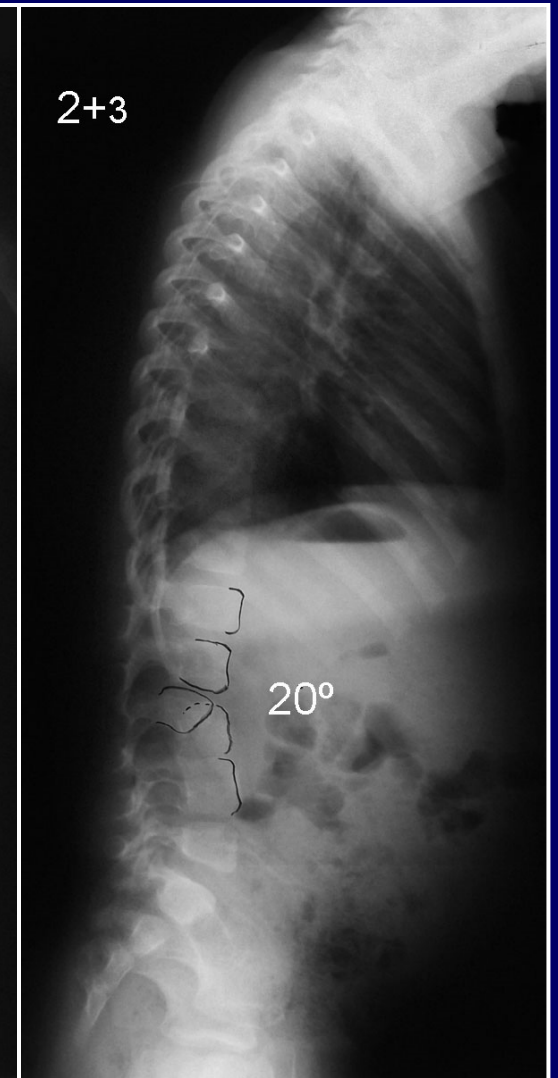
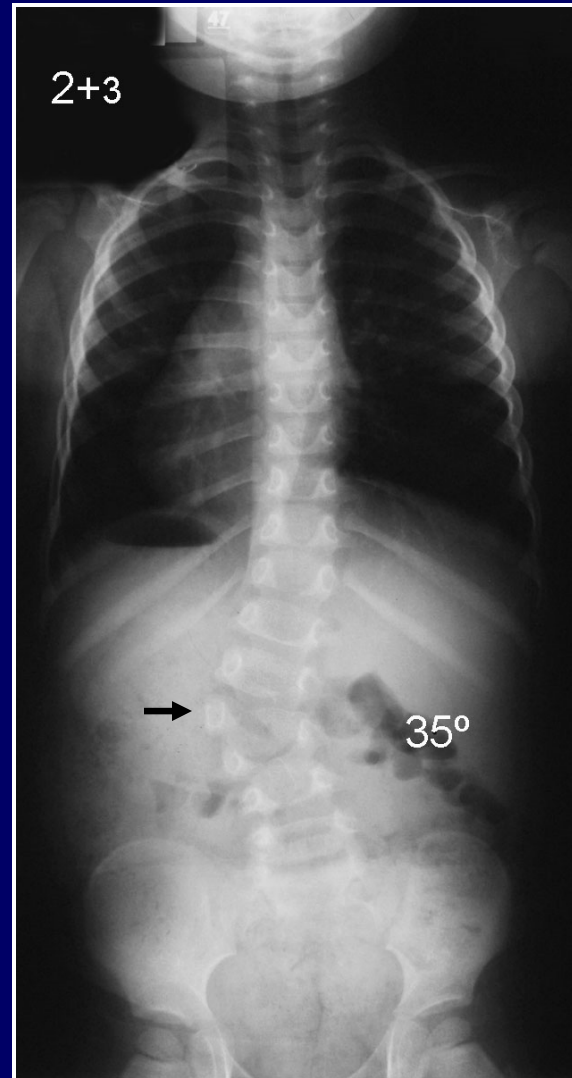
- pathologic anatomy and type of anomaly
 - Types I and III: worst prognosis
- site
 - usually TL
 - if TH: higher risk for neurological complications
- alignment of the spinal canal



Posterolateral Quadrant Vertebra (35%)

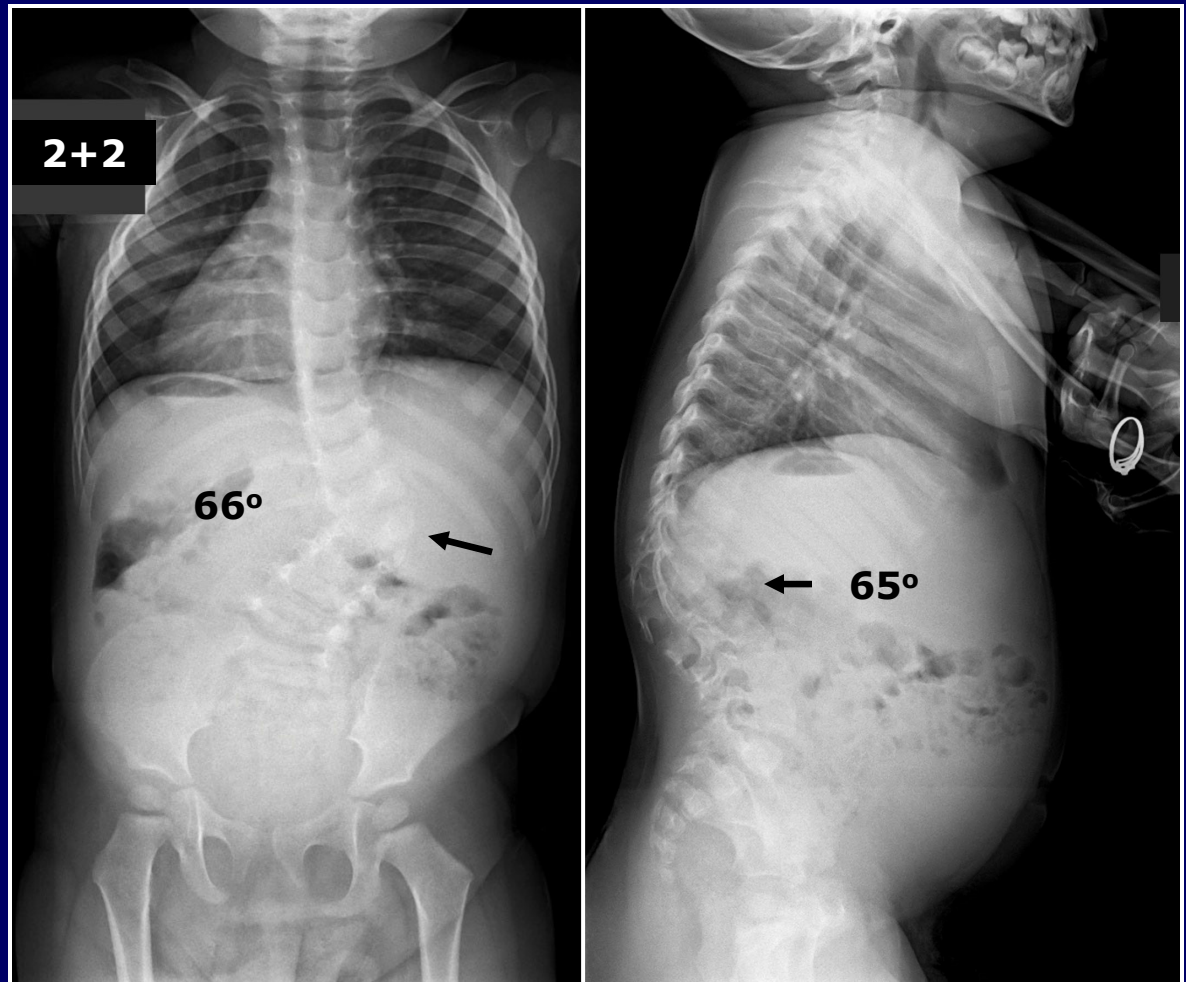


- kyphosis progresses at a mean rate of:
2.5°/yr (before 10 yrs)
5°/yr (after 10 yrs)

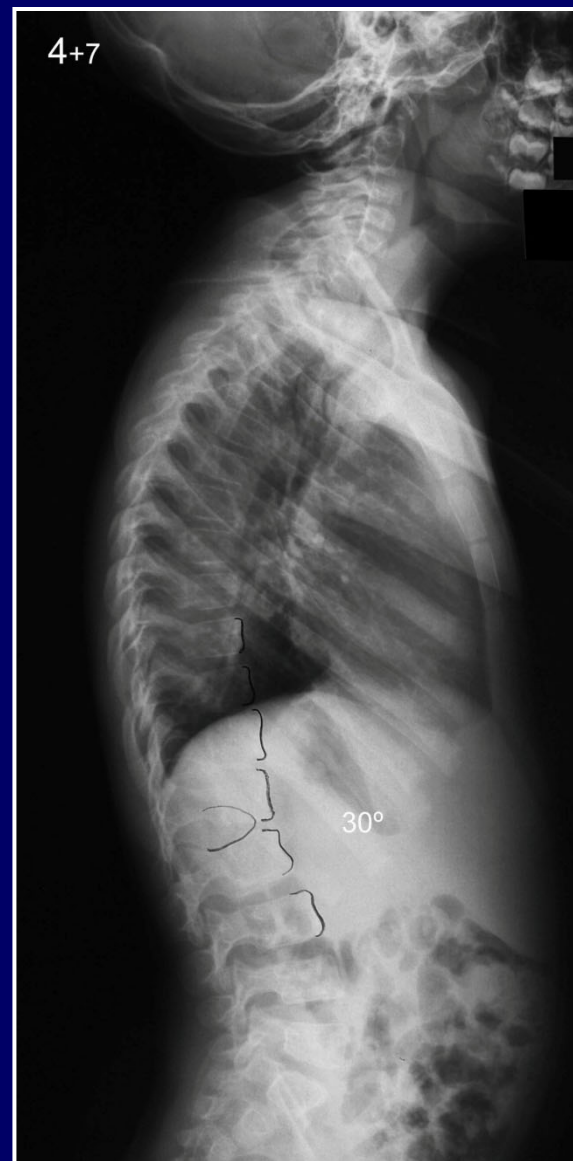
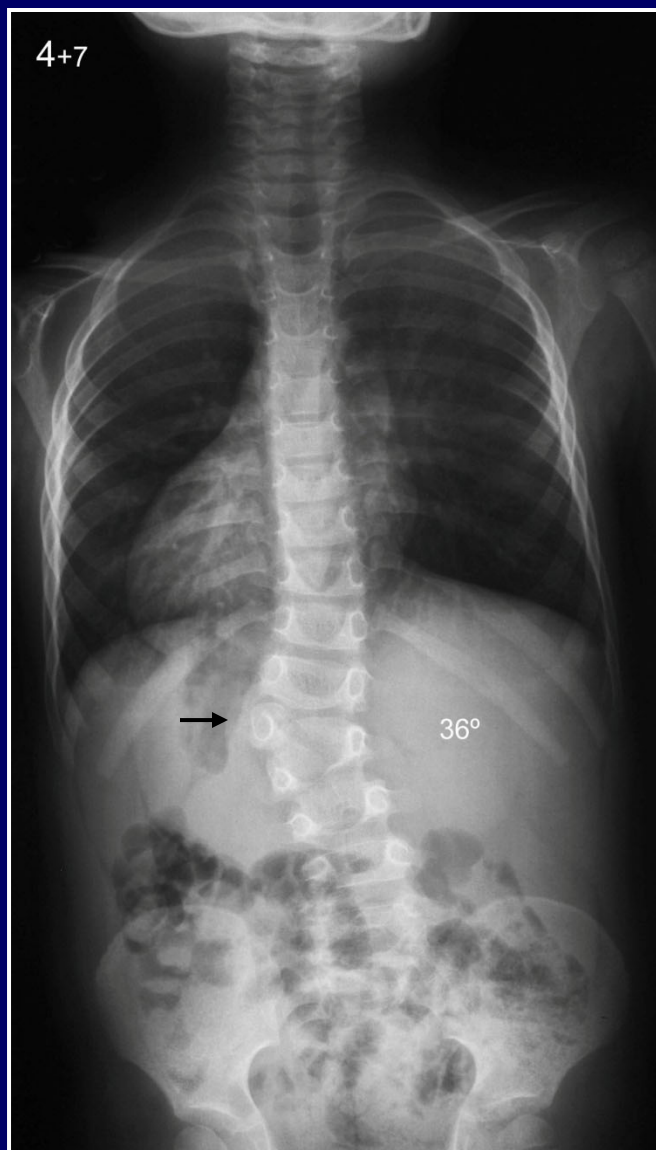


Posterolateral Quadrant Vertebra (35%)

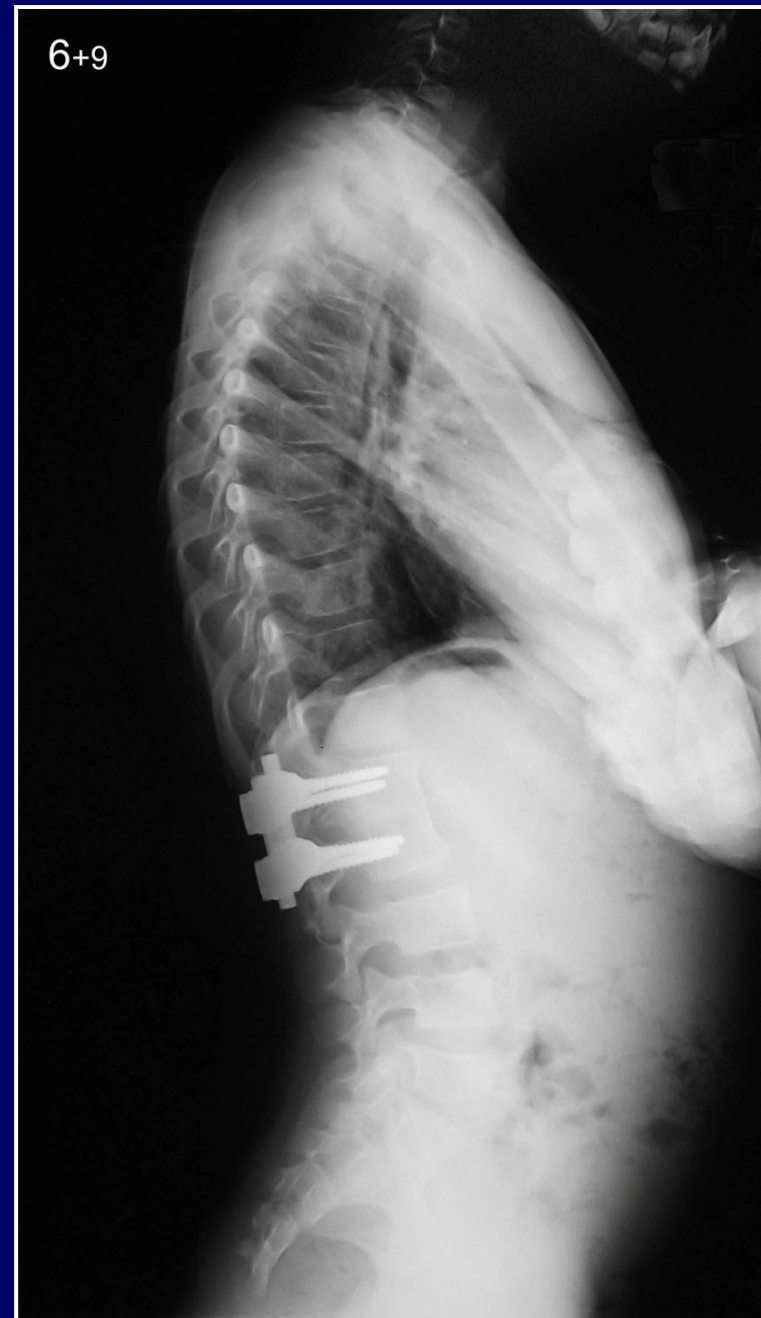
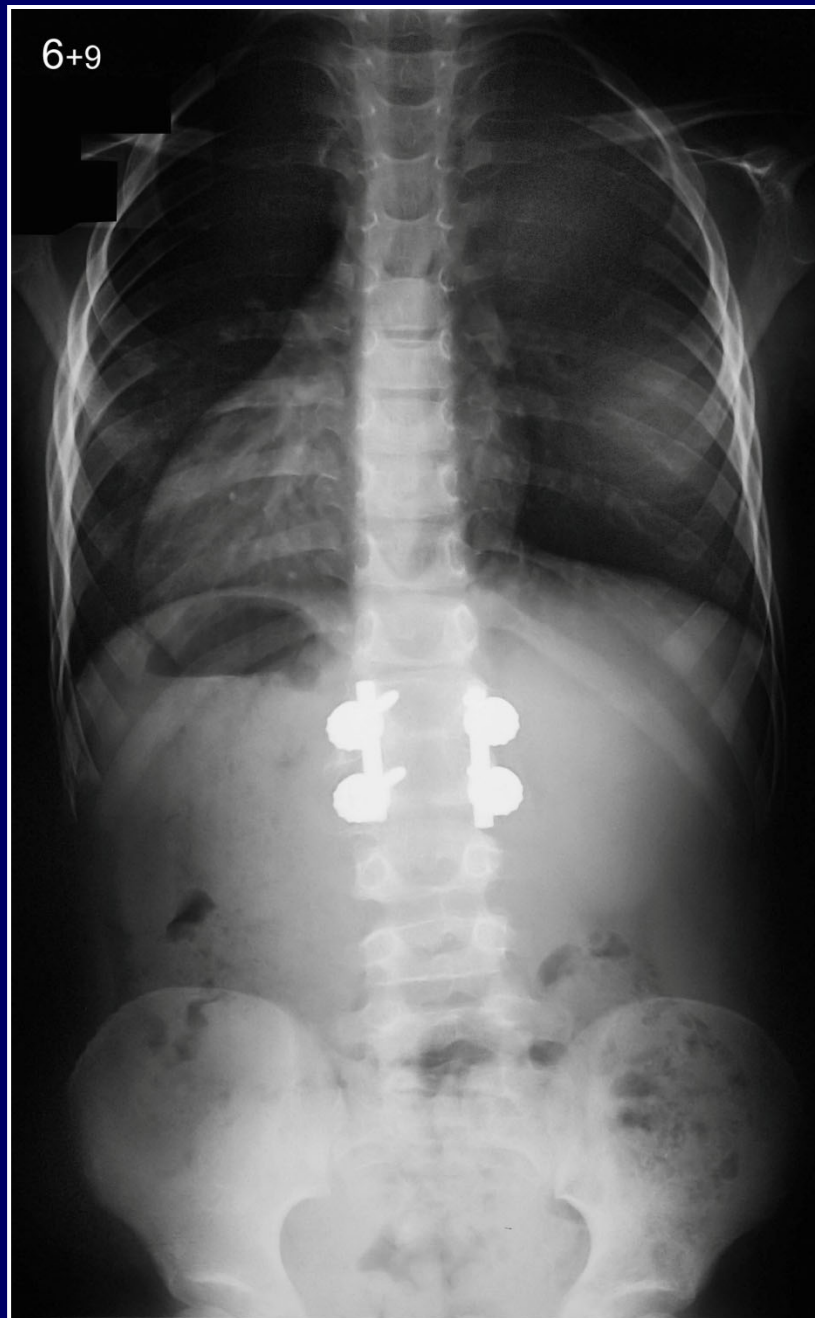
- majority exceed 80° by 11 yrs of age
- highest risk of spinal cord compression



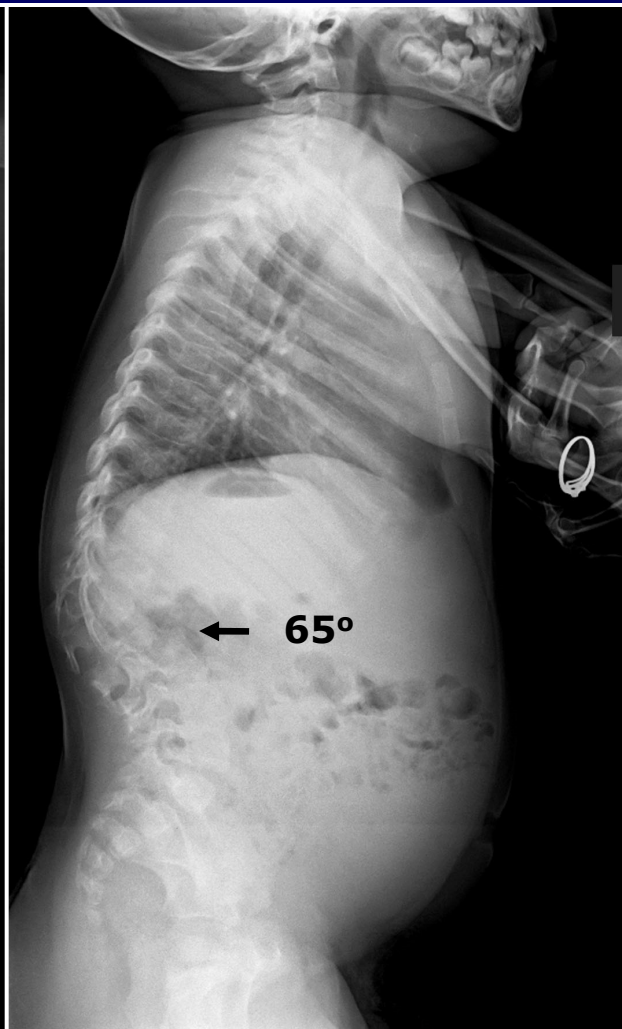
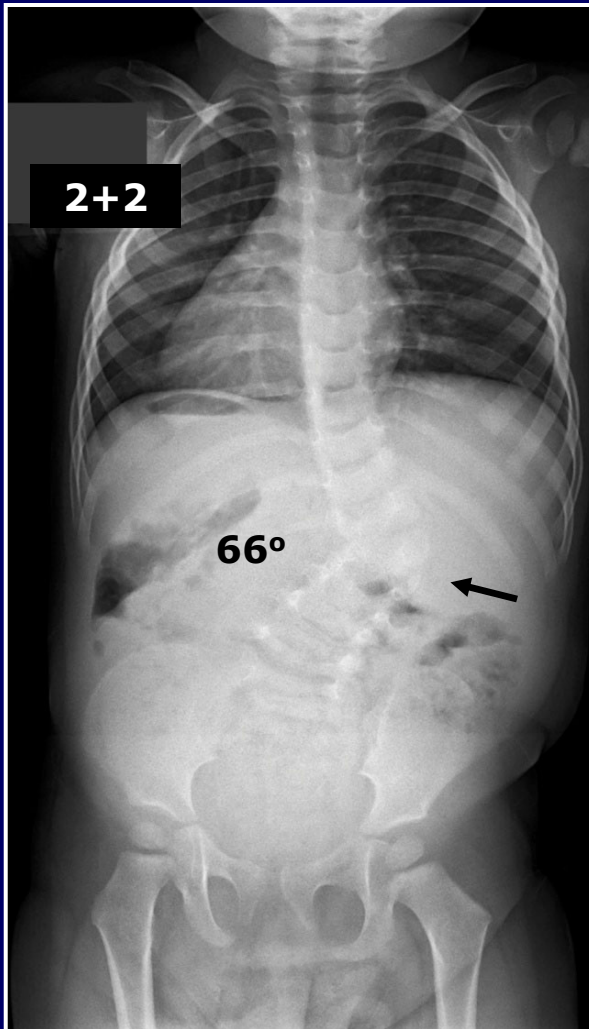
PL Hemivertebra resection



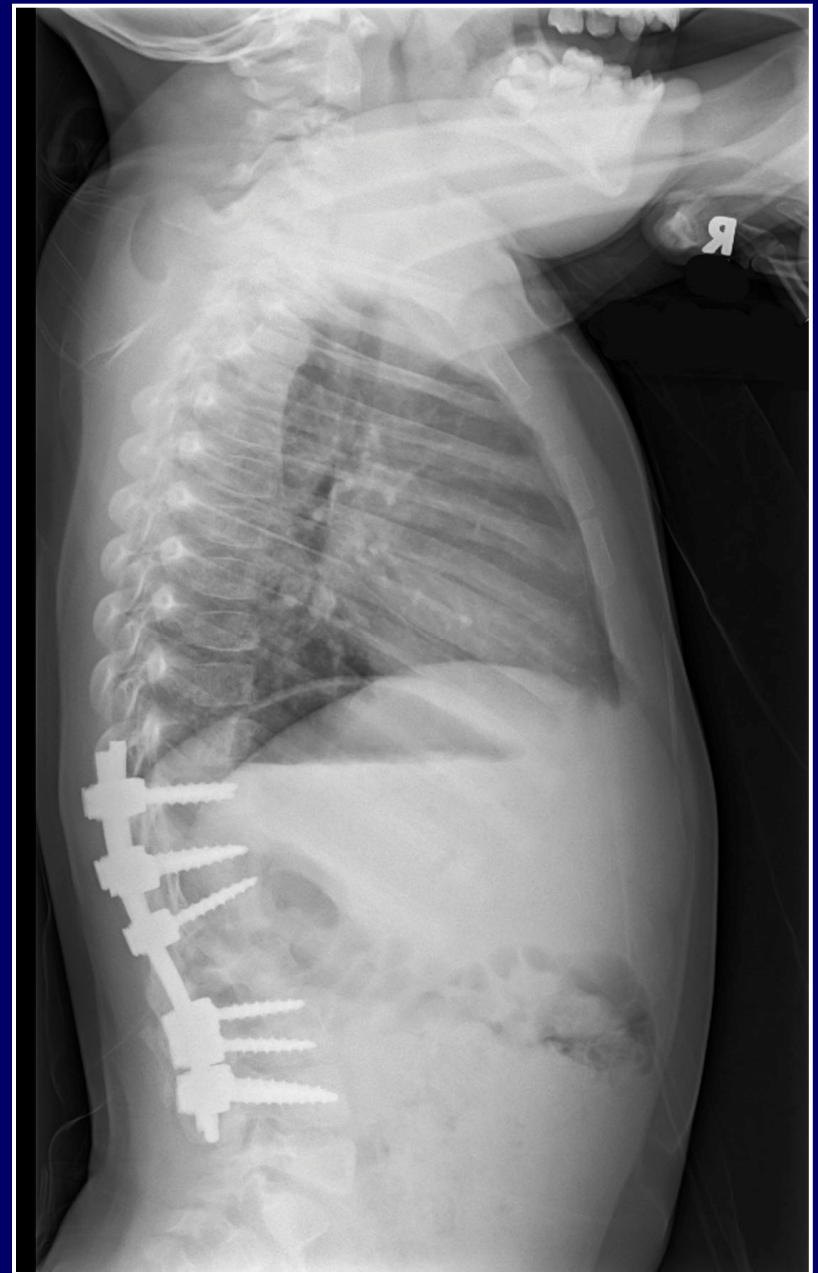
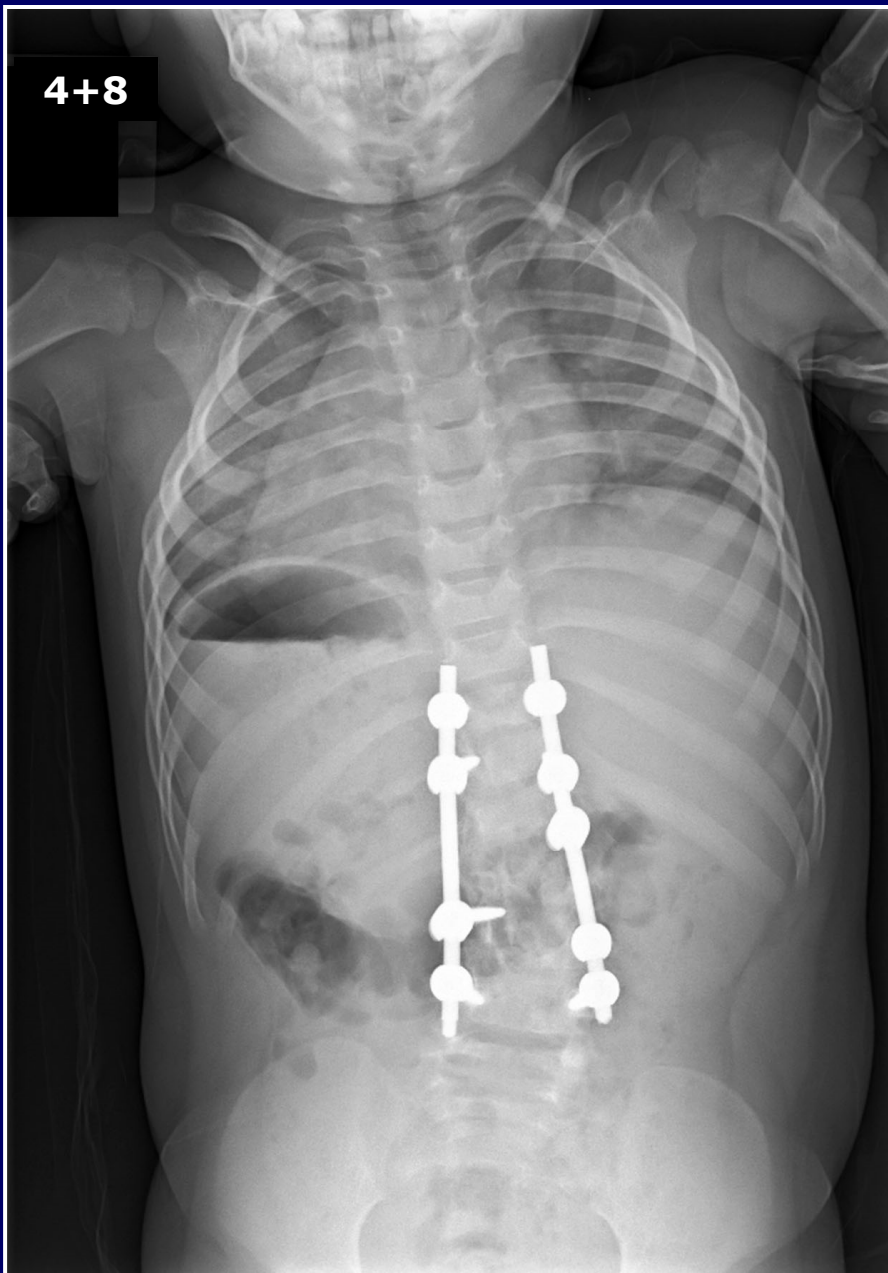




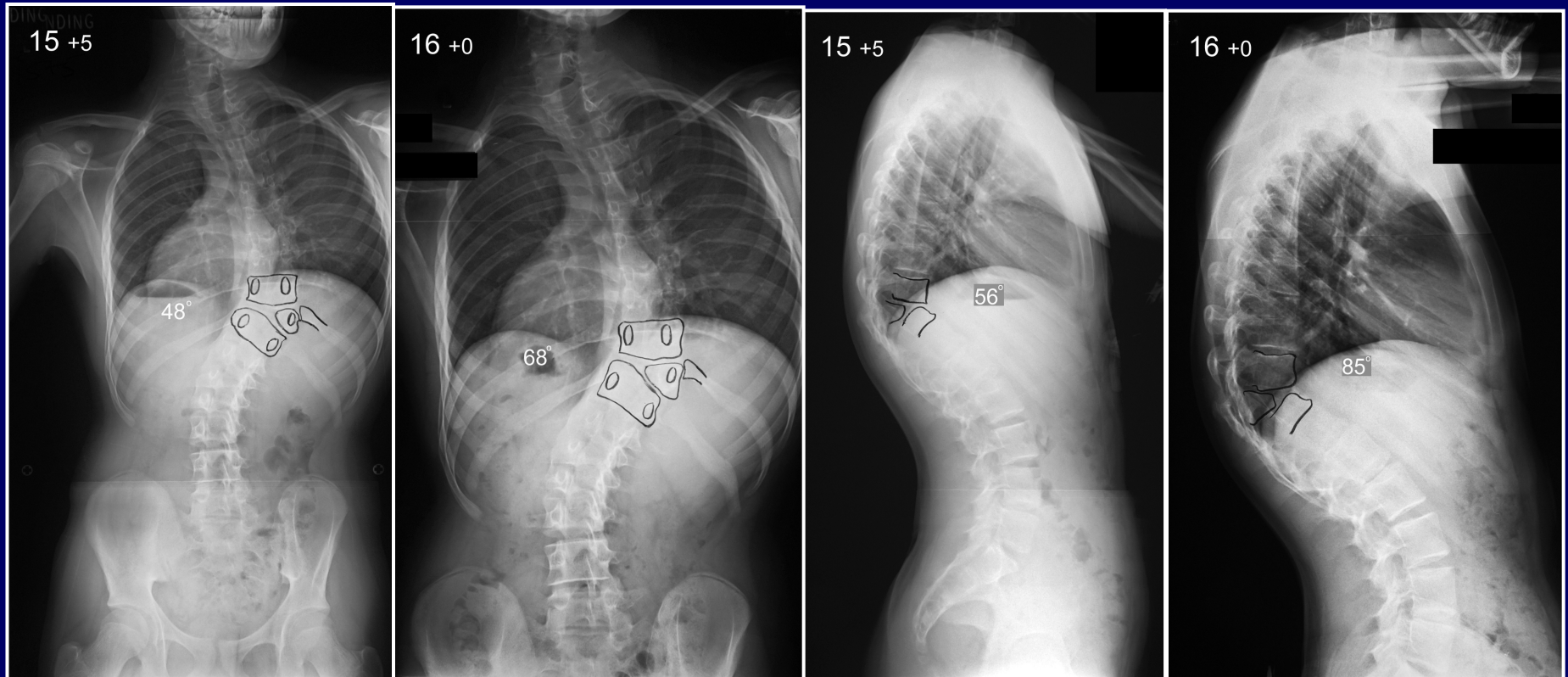
PL Hemivertebra resection

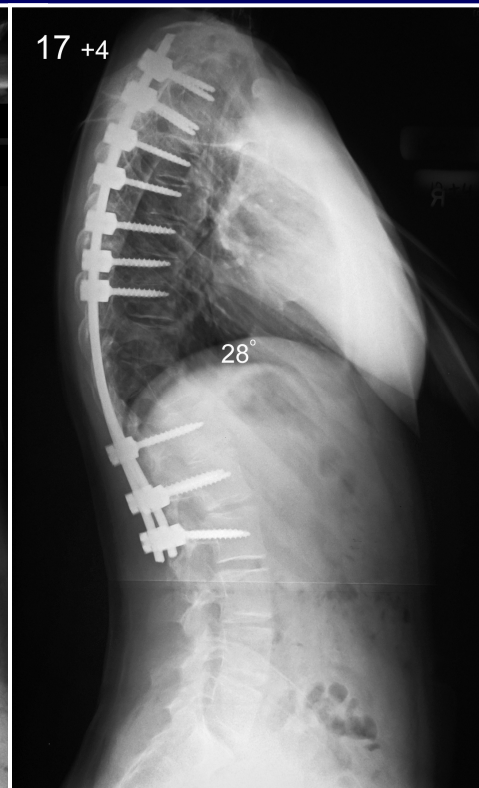
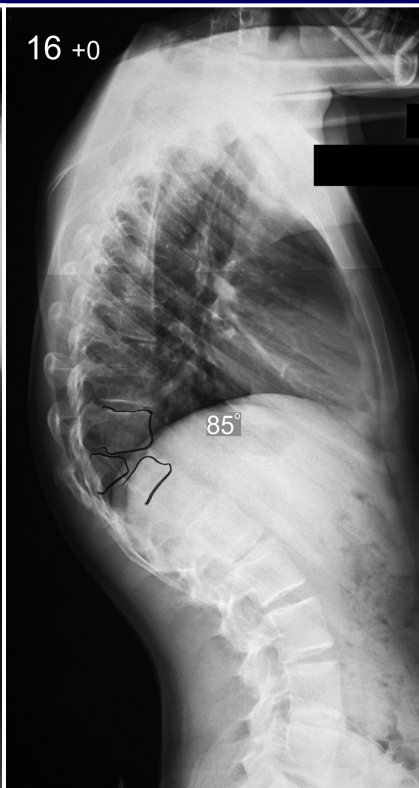
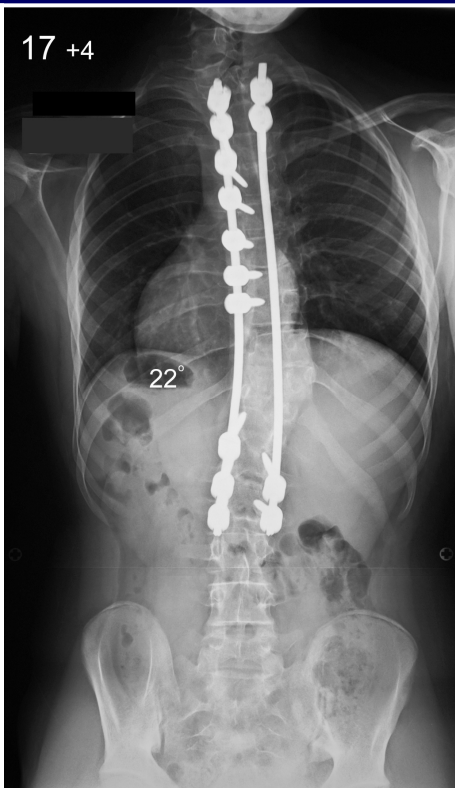
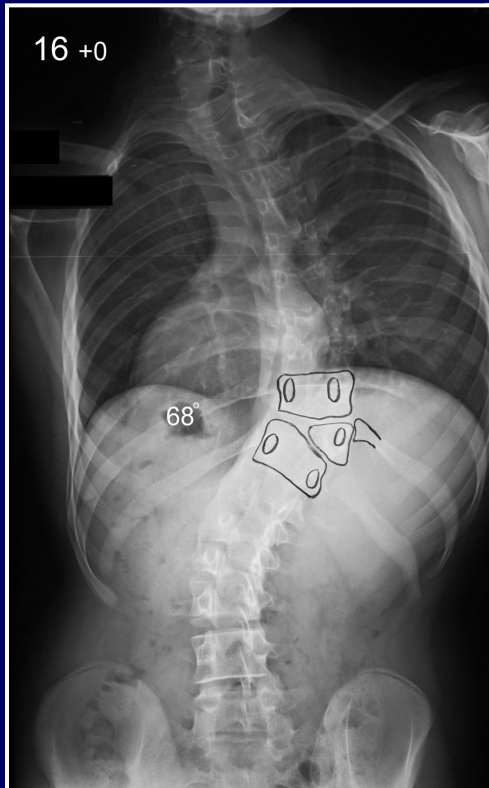




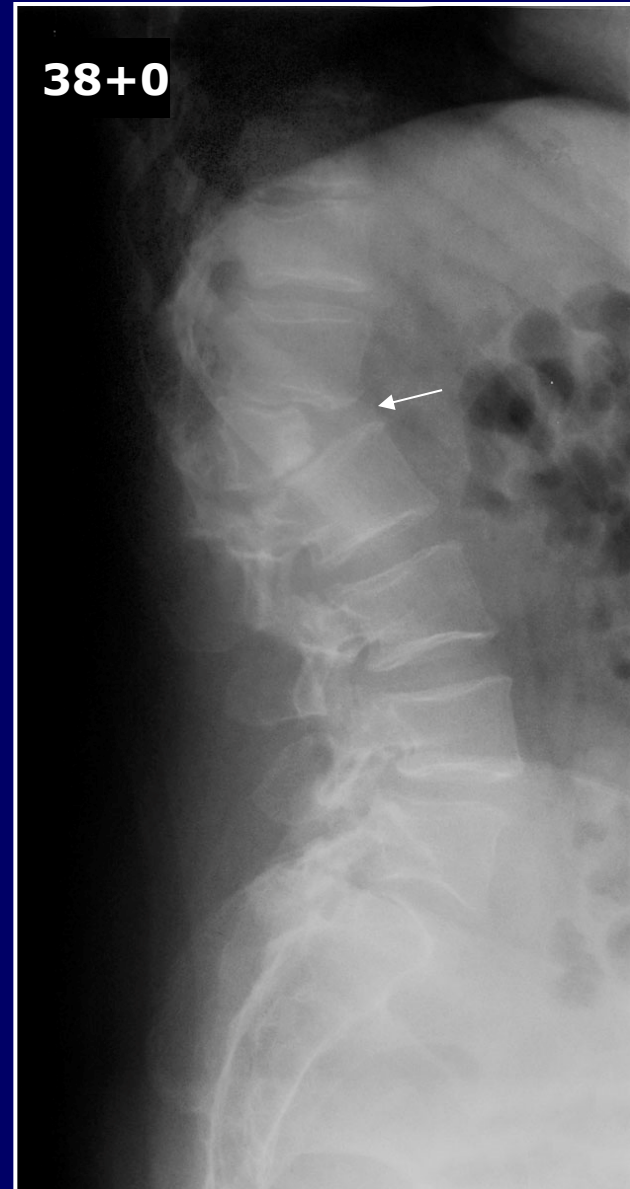
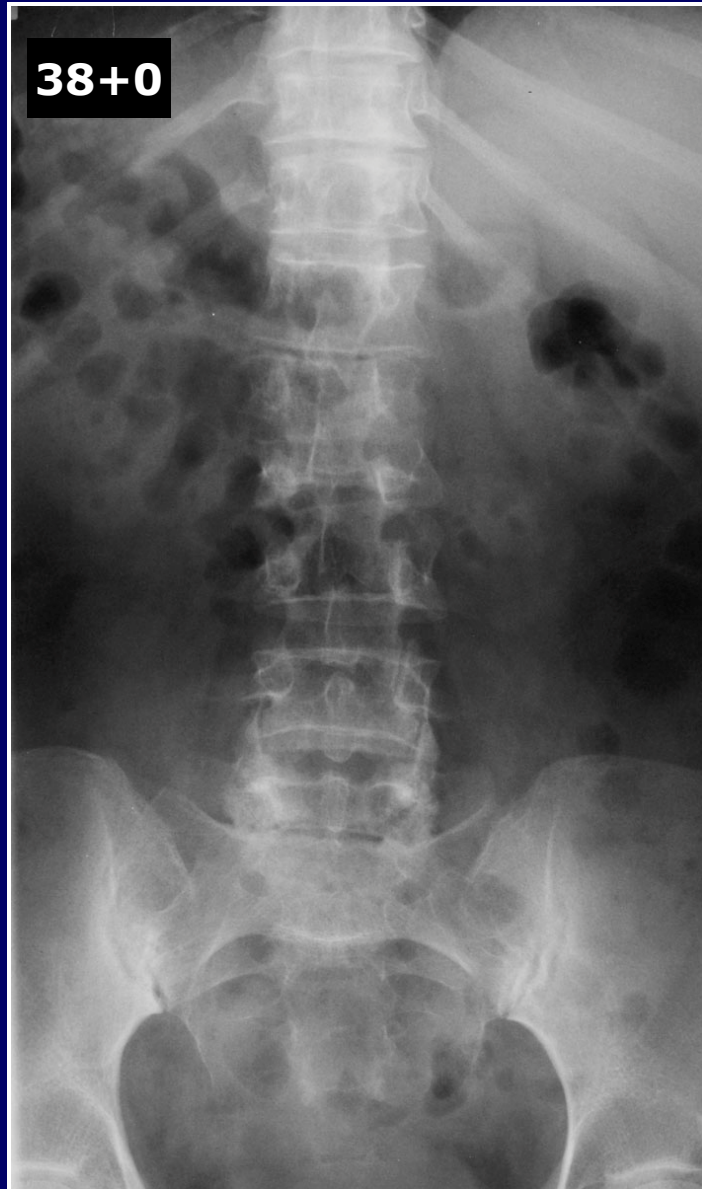


PL Hemivertebra-late presentation





Posterior Hemivertebra



Prophylactic posterior fusion

(Type I and III congenital kyphosis and kyphoscoliosis)

- **Indications:**
 - children <5 yrs
 - kyphosis up to 50°
- **Objective:**
 - produce a posterior spinal tether
 - gradual correction with remaining anterior growth
- **Considerations:**
 - should extend to at least one level above and below the most sagittally tilted vertebra

Prophylactic posterior fusion

- Pseudarthrosis
 - difficult to detect
 - kyphosis progression $>5^{\circ}$ 6 months following posterior arthrodesis
- exploration to repair the nonunion or augment a weak fusion mass

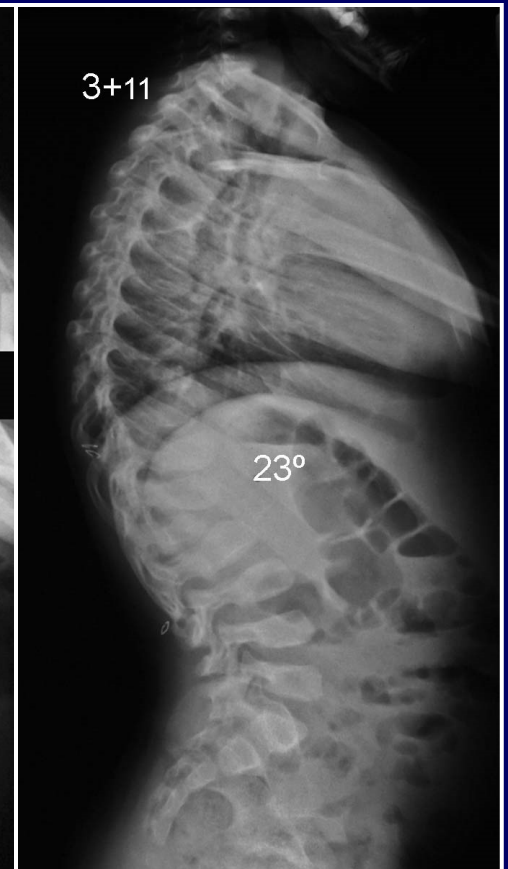
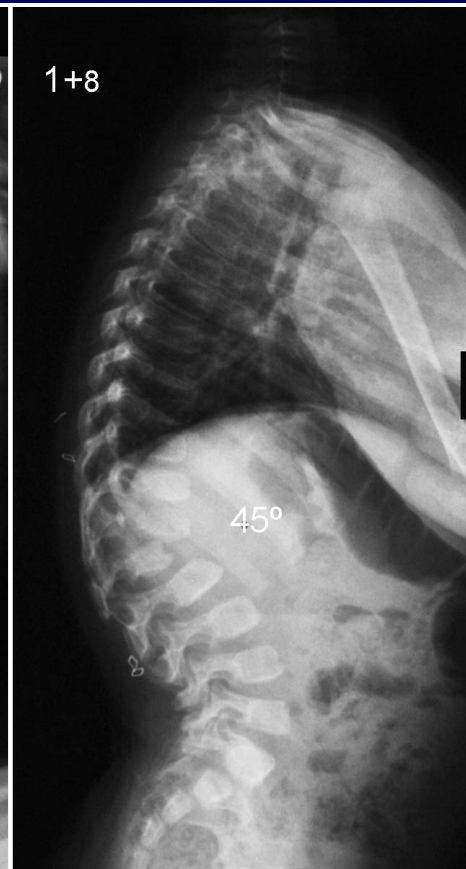
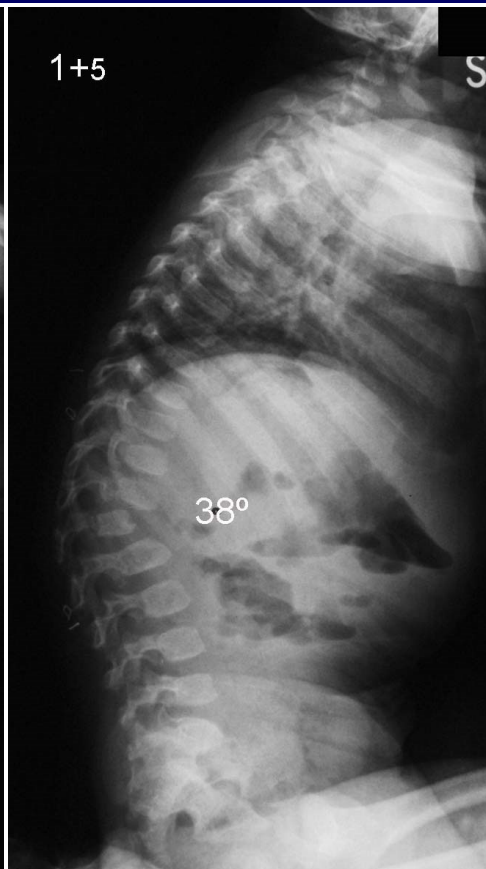
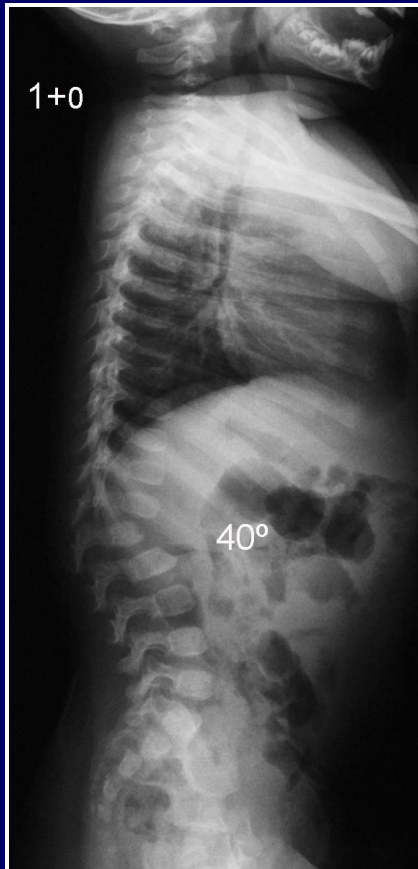


preoperative

postoperative

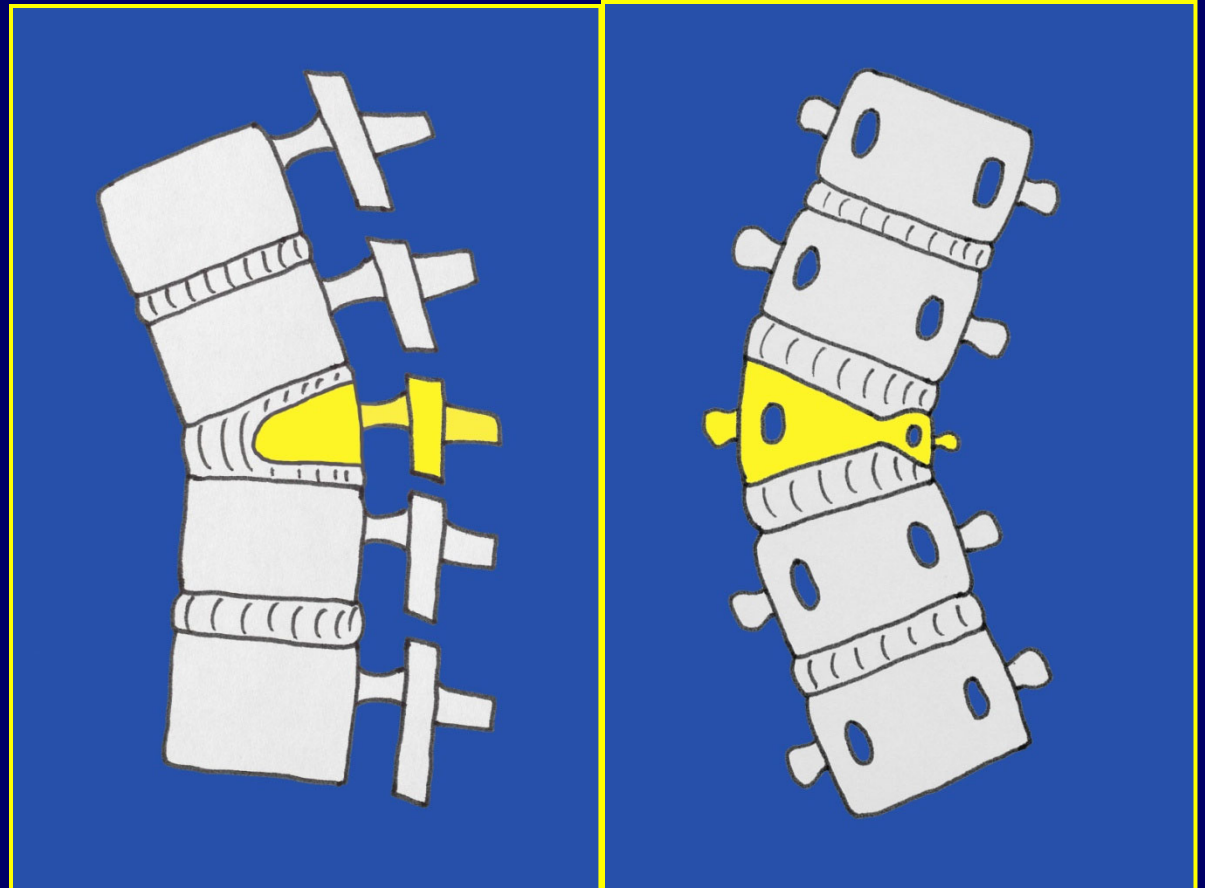
pseudarthrosis

follow-up

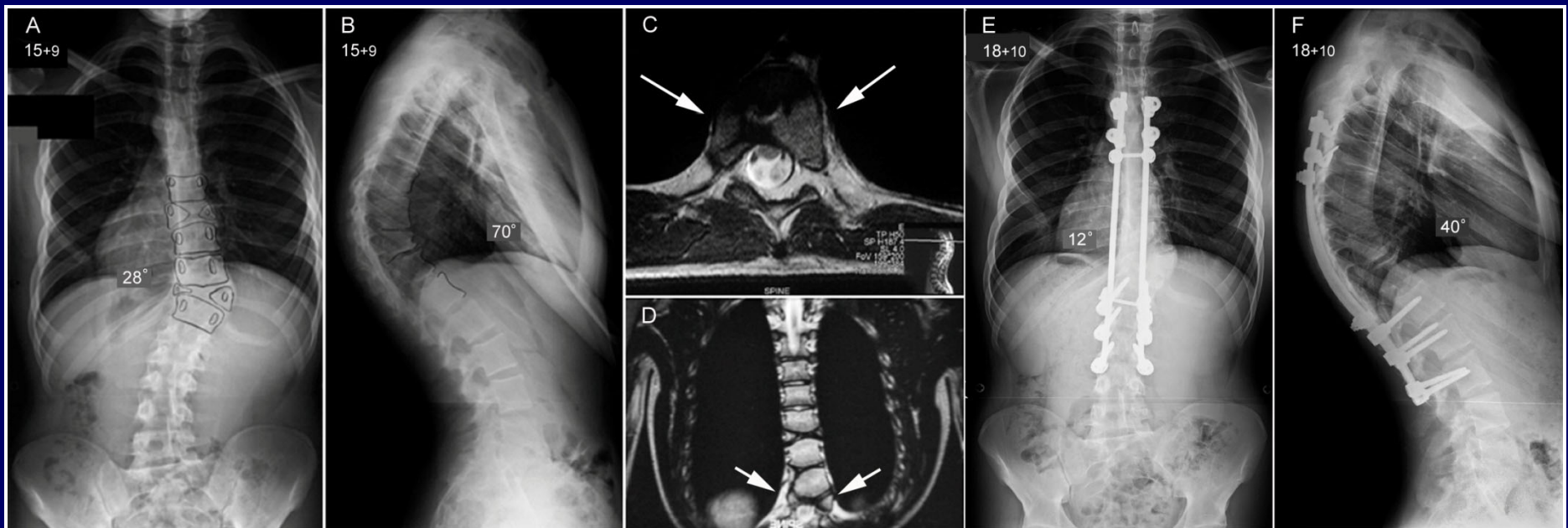


Butterfly (Sagittal Cleft) Vertebra (13%)

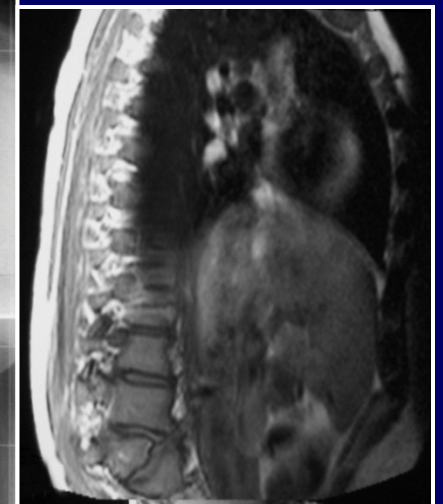
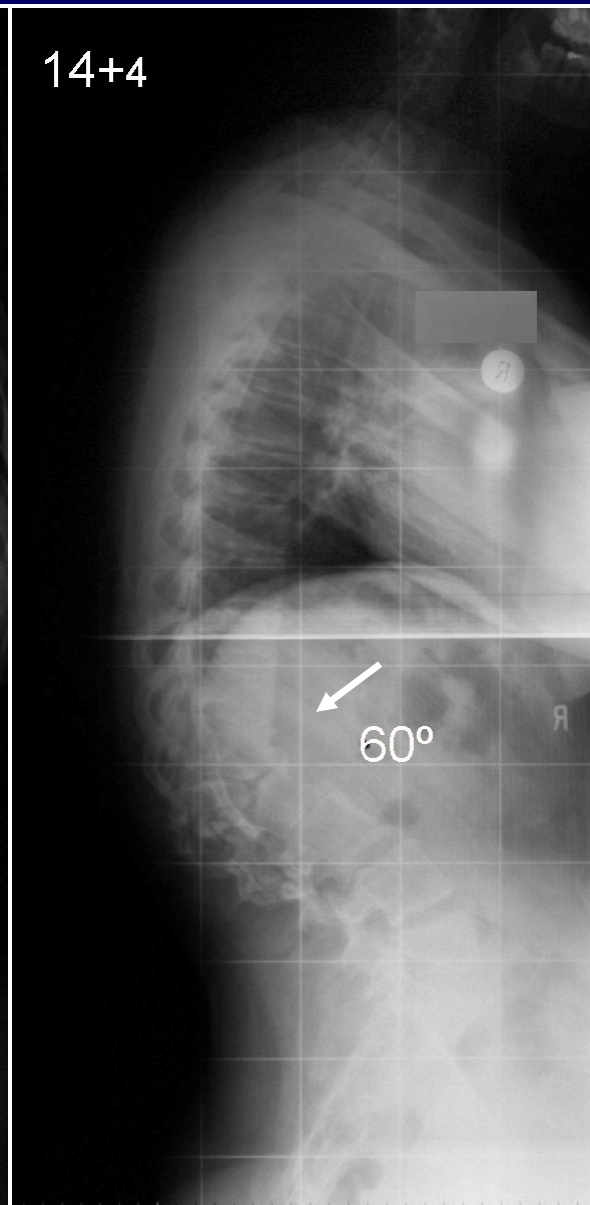
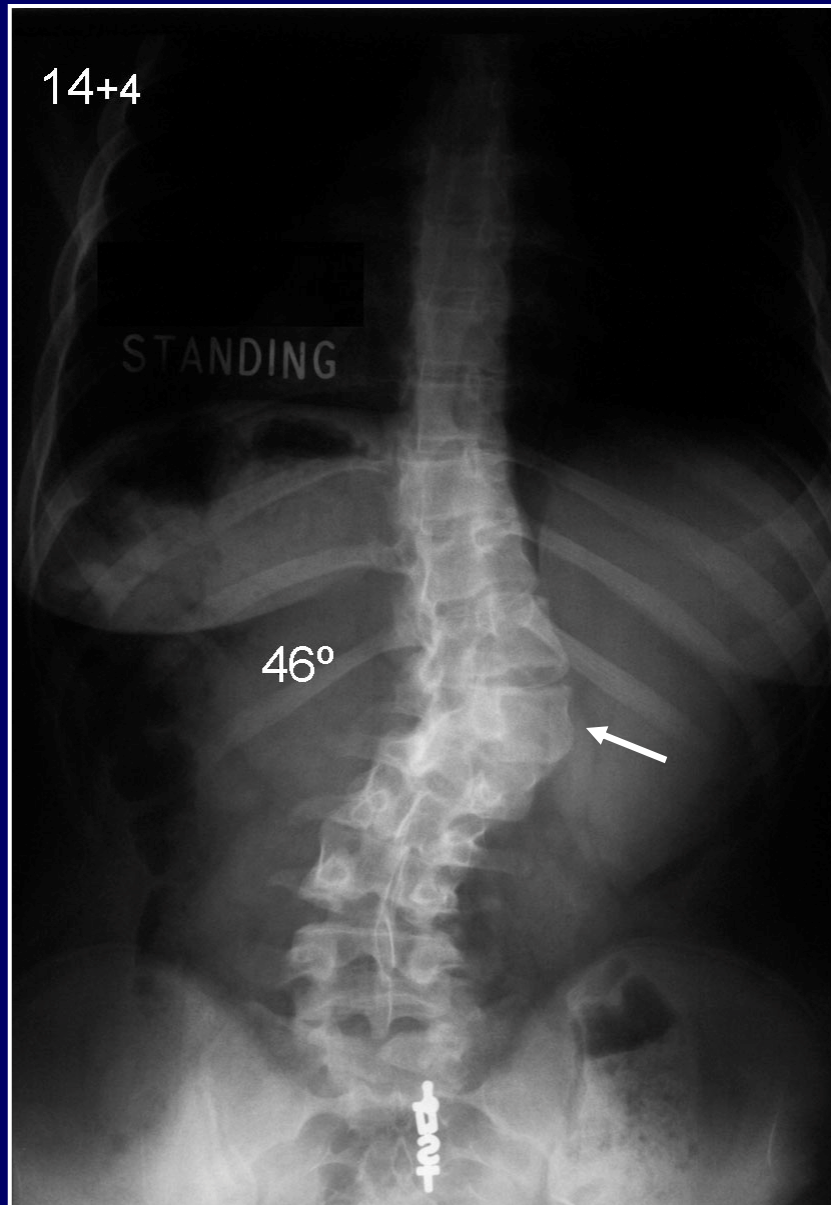
- kyphosis progresses at a mean rate of:
1.5°/yr (before 10 yrs)
4°/yr (after 10 yrs)



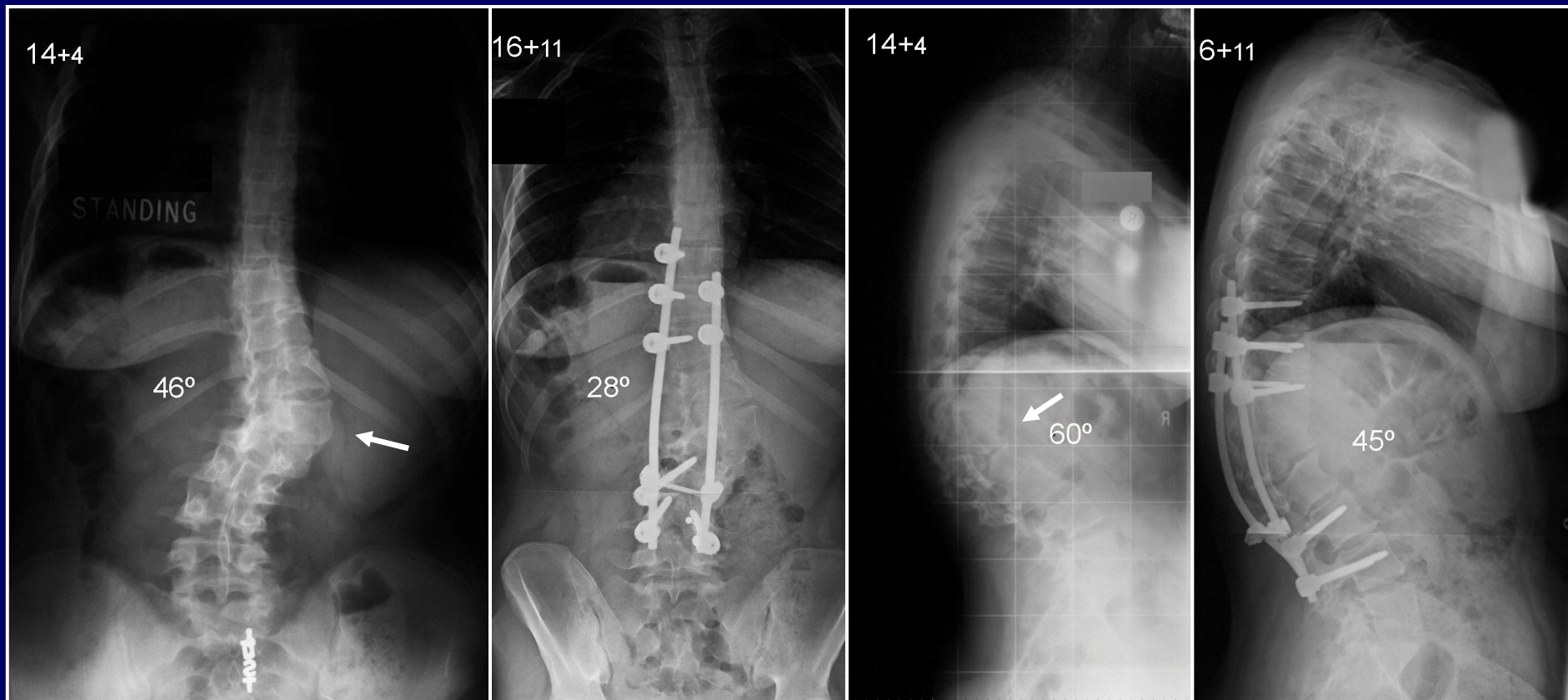
Butterfly vertebra



Wedged Vertebra



Posterior Instrumented Fusion

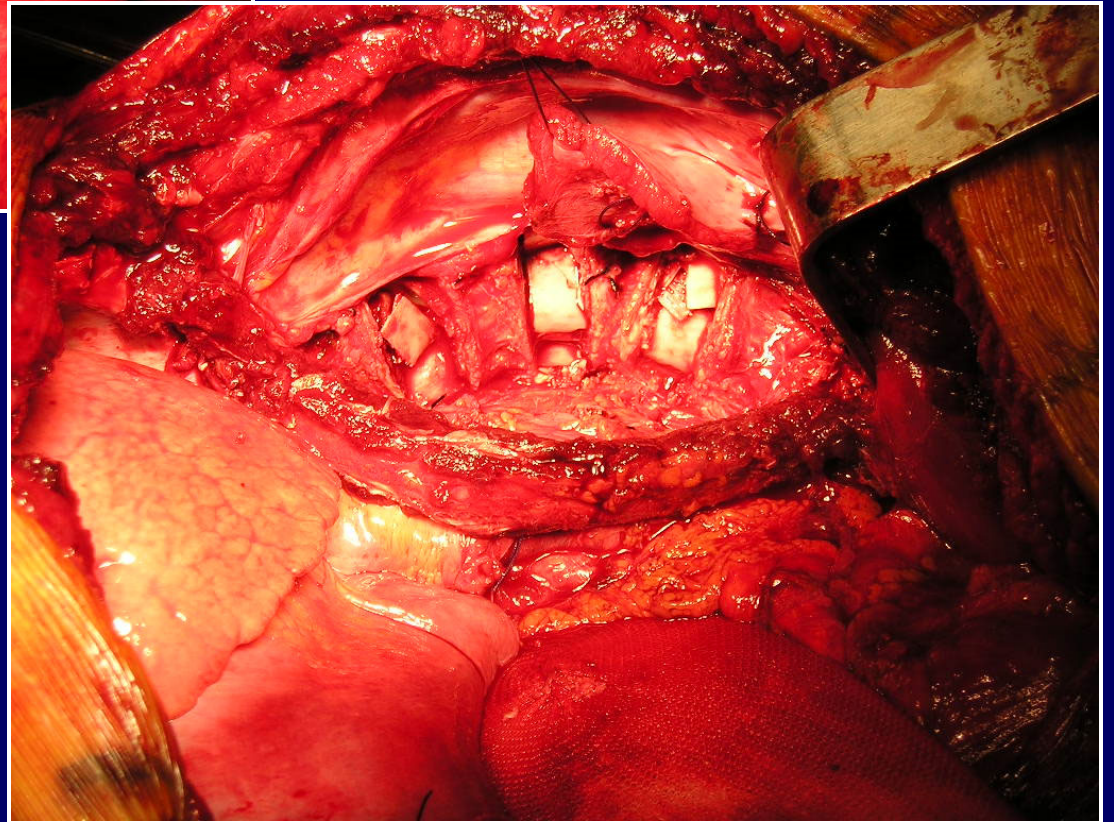
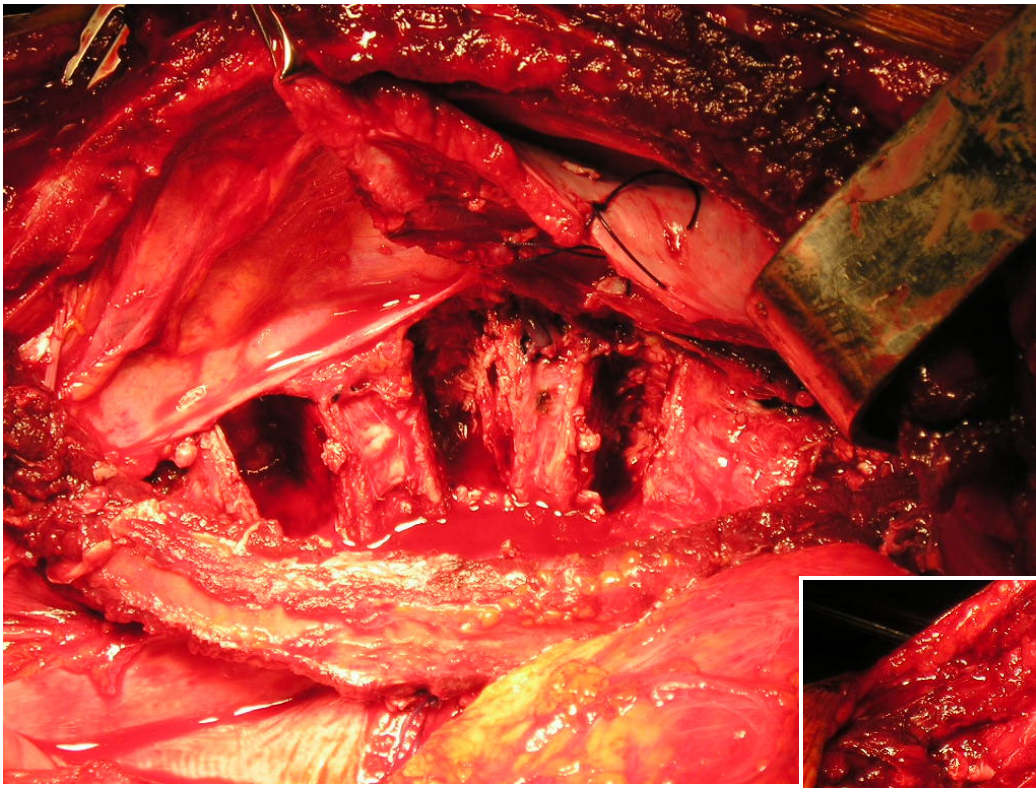


Type I-wedged vertebra

Combined A/P fusion

- **Indications:**
 - children >5 yrs
 - kyphosis >50-60°
- **Objective:**
 - partly correct a severe and rigid kyphosis
 - stabilize the spine and prevent neurological complications
- **Considerations:**
 - anterior strut graft
 - posterior instrumentation

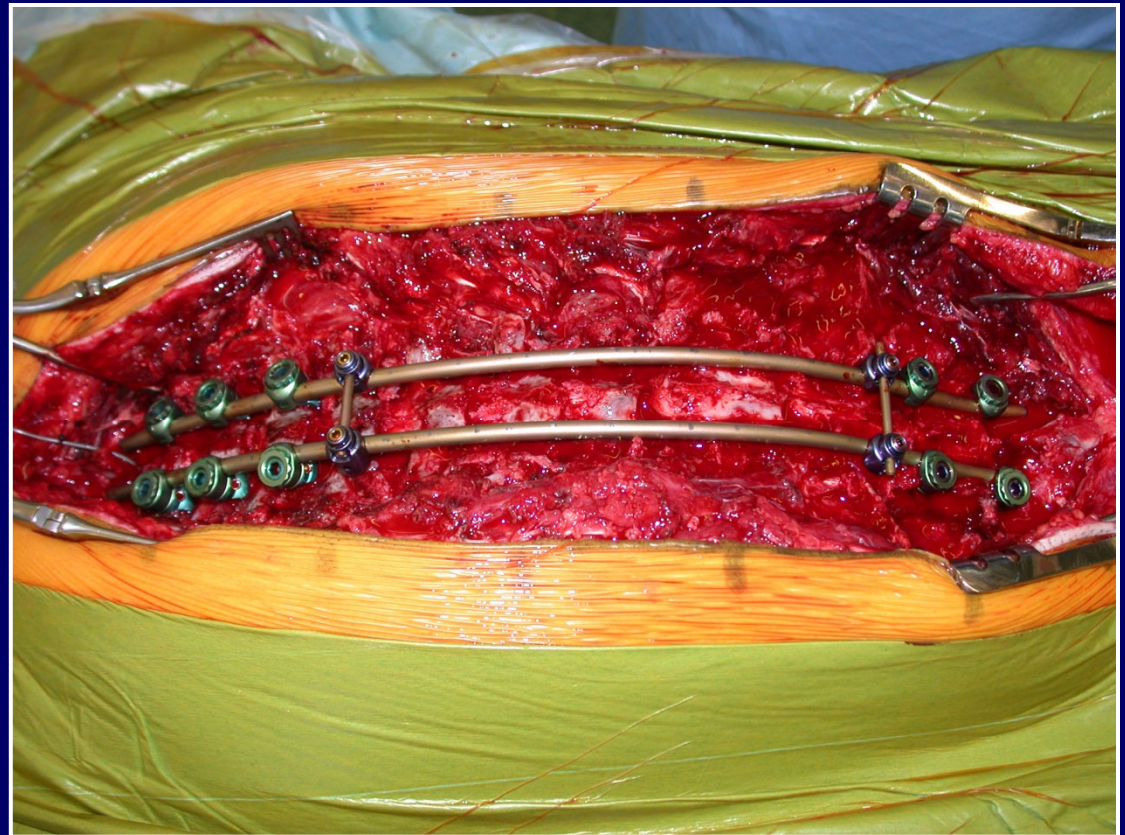
Vascularized rib strut graft (stage 1)



Posterior spinal instrumentation (stage 2)

Problems

- young children
 - difficult to apply
 - covers area available for fusion
- large/rigid, upper thoracic kyphosis
 - less effective
 - prominent under the skin



VCR and Instrumented Fusion

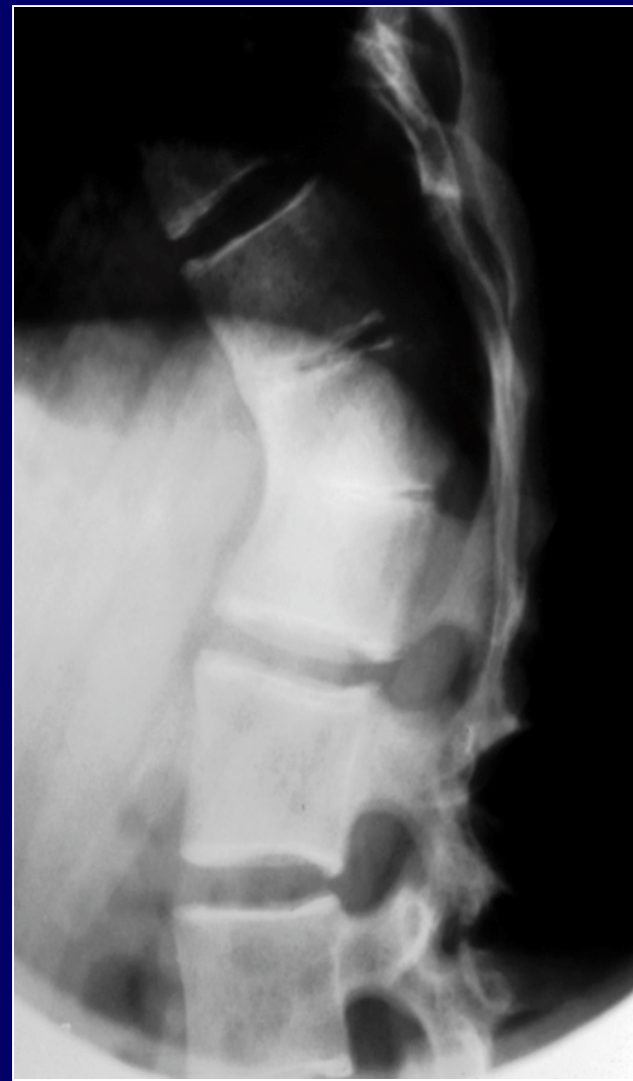
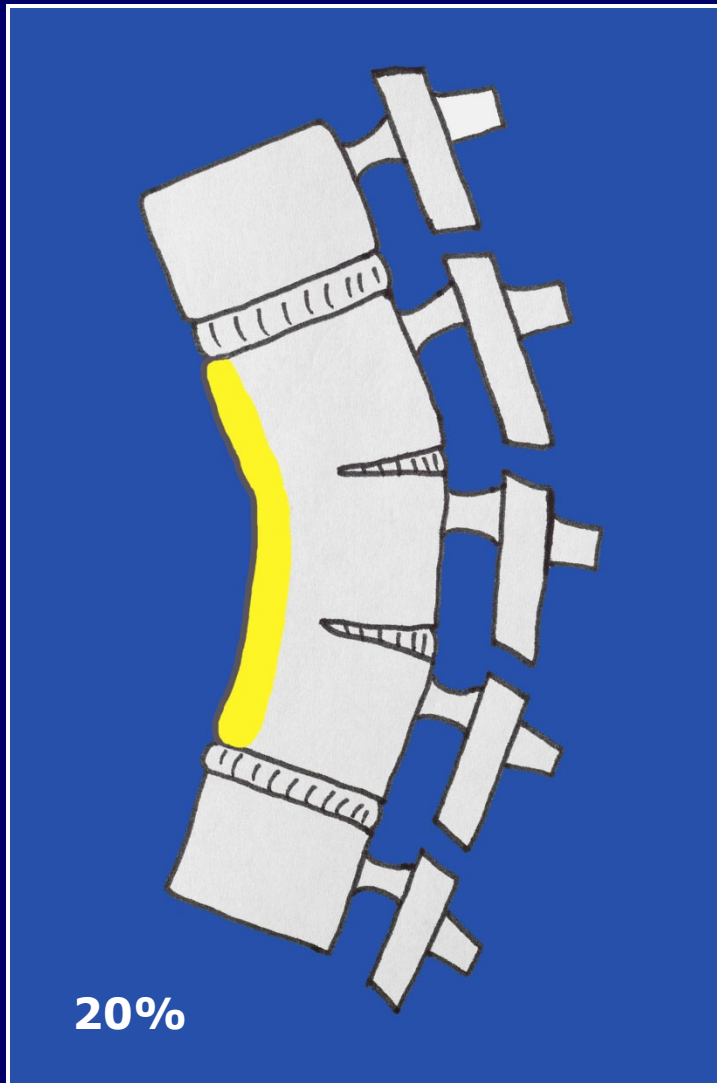
- **Indications:**

- alternative to combined A/PSF for very severe and rigid deformities
- neurological compromise due to spinal cord compression

- **Considerations:**

- complex and dangerous procedure with increased neurological risks

Anterior Failure of Vertebral Segmentation (Type II)

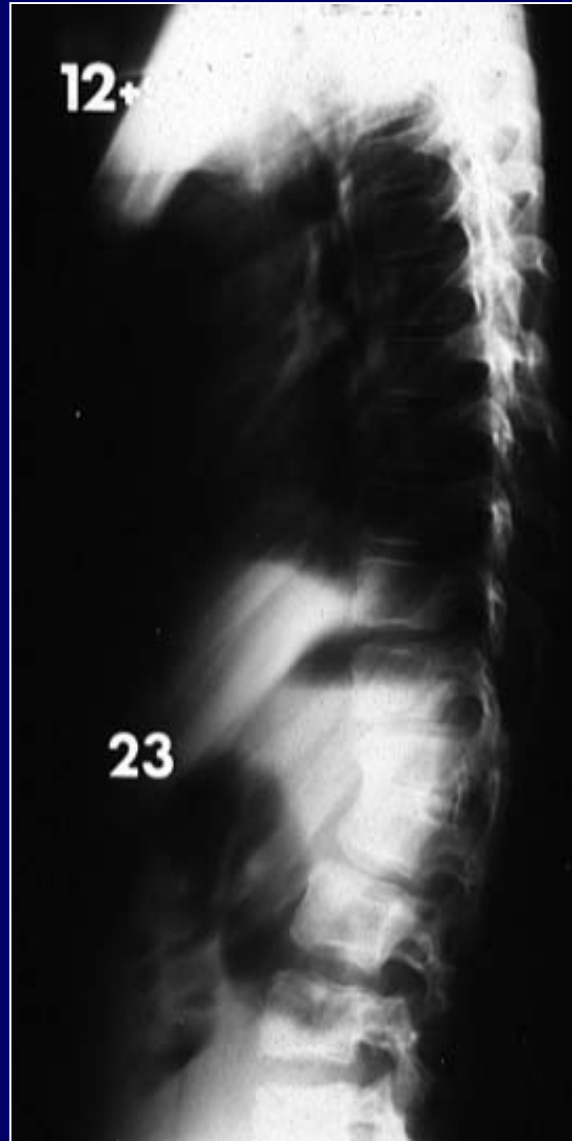


Anterior Unsegmented Bar

- produces a pure kyphosis
- kyphosis progresses slowly at a mean rate of:
 - 1°/yr (before 10 yrs)
 - <2°/yr (after 10 yrs)
- does not cause spinal cord compression



Anterior Unsegmented Bar



Anterolateral Unsegmented Bar

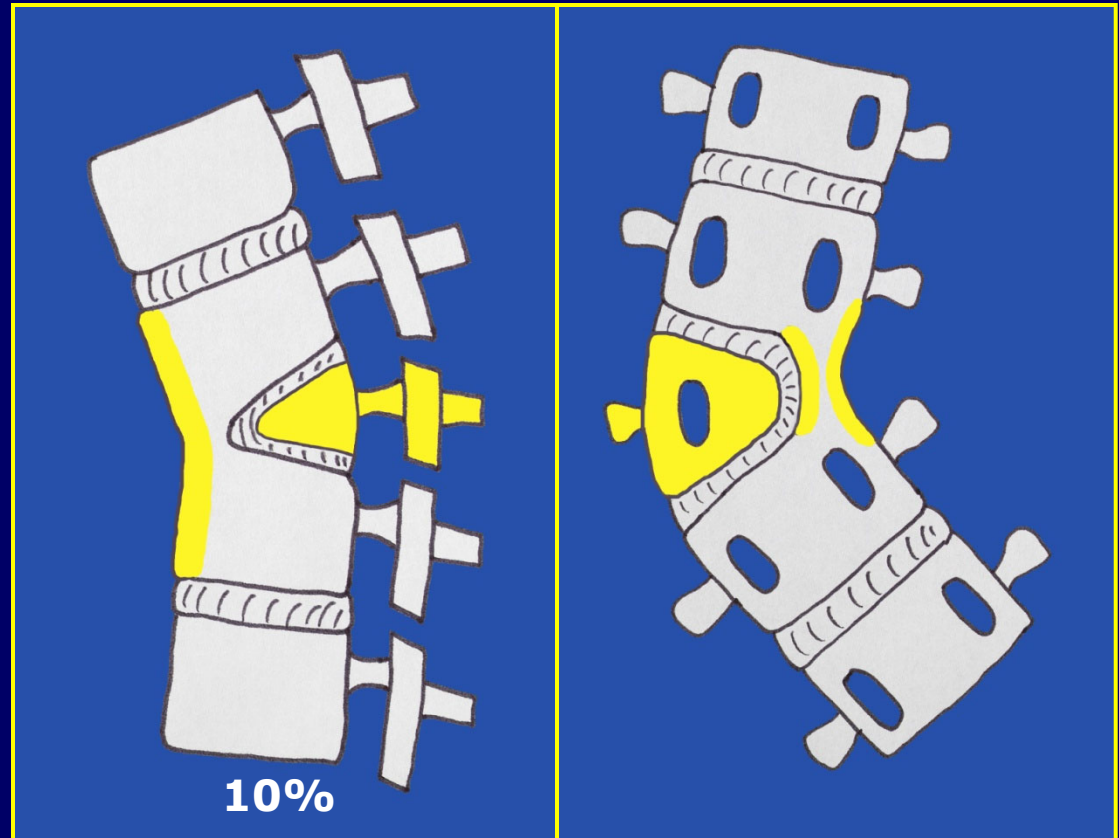
- produces a kyphoscoliosis
- worse prognosis compared to an anterior unsegmented bar
- kyphosis exceeds 90° at skeletal maturity

Anterolateral Bar and Contralateral Quadrant Vertebra (Type III)

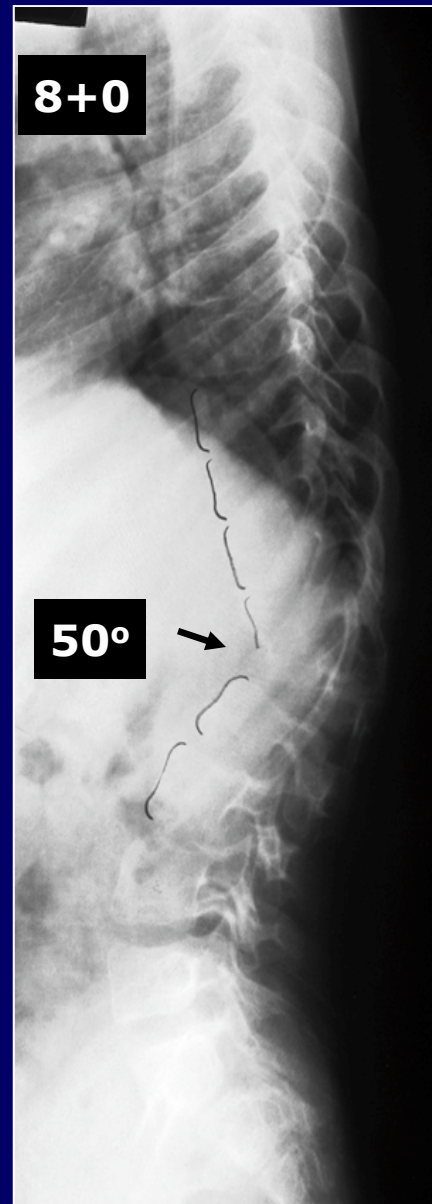
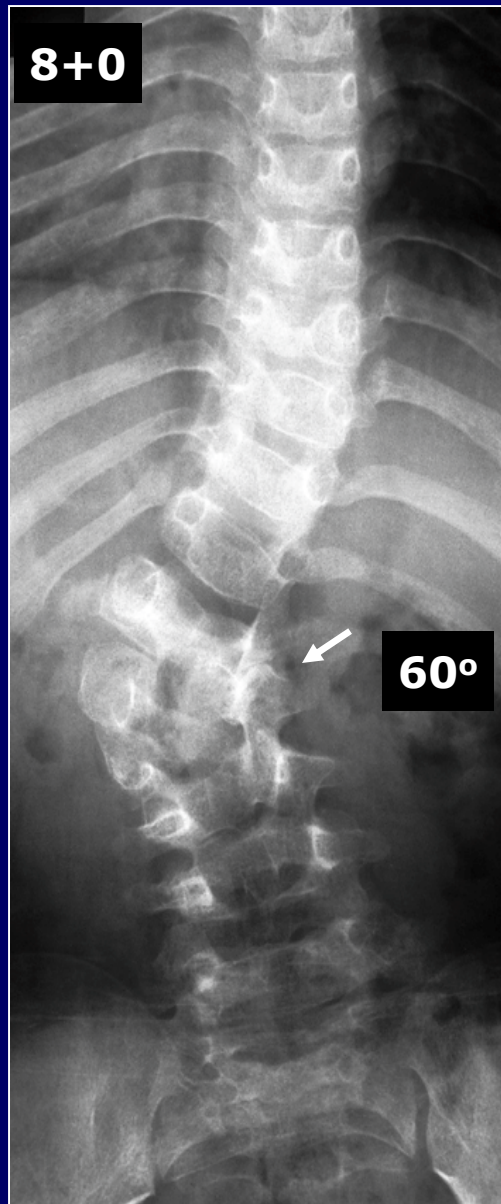
- kyphosis progresses at a mean rate of:

5°/yr (before 10 yrs)

8°/yr (after 10 yrs)

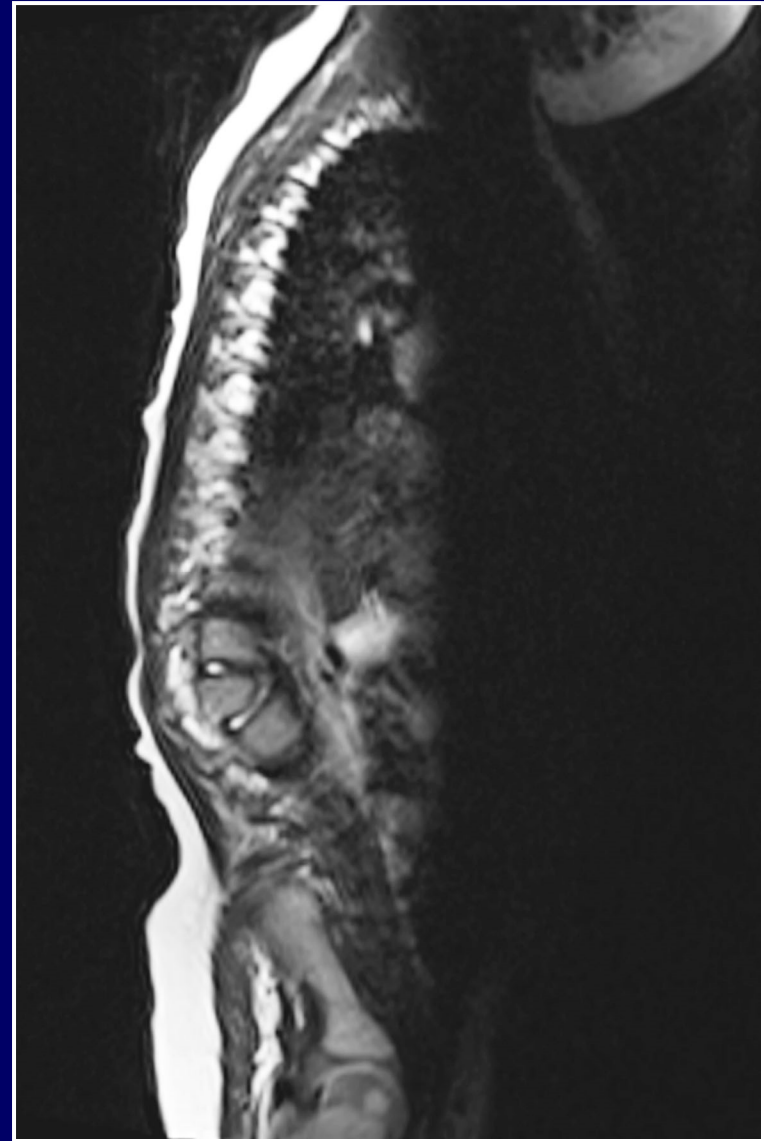


Mixed Anomalies (Type III)

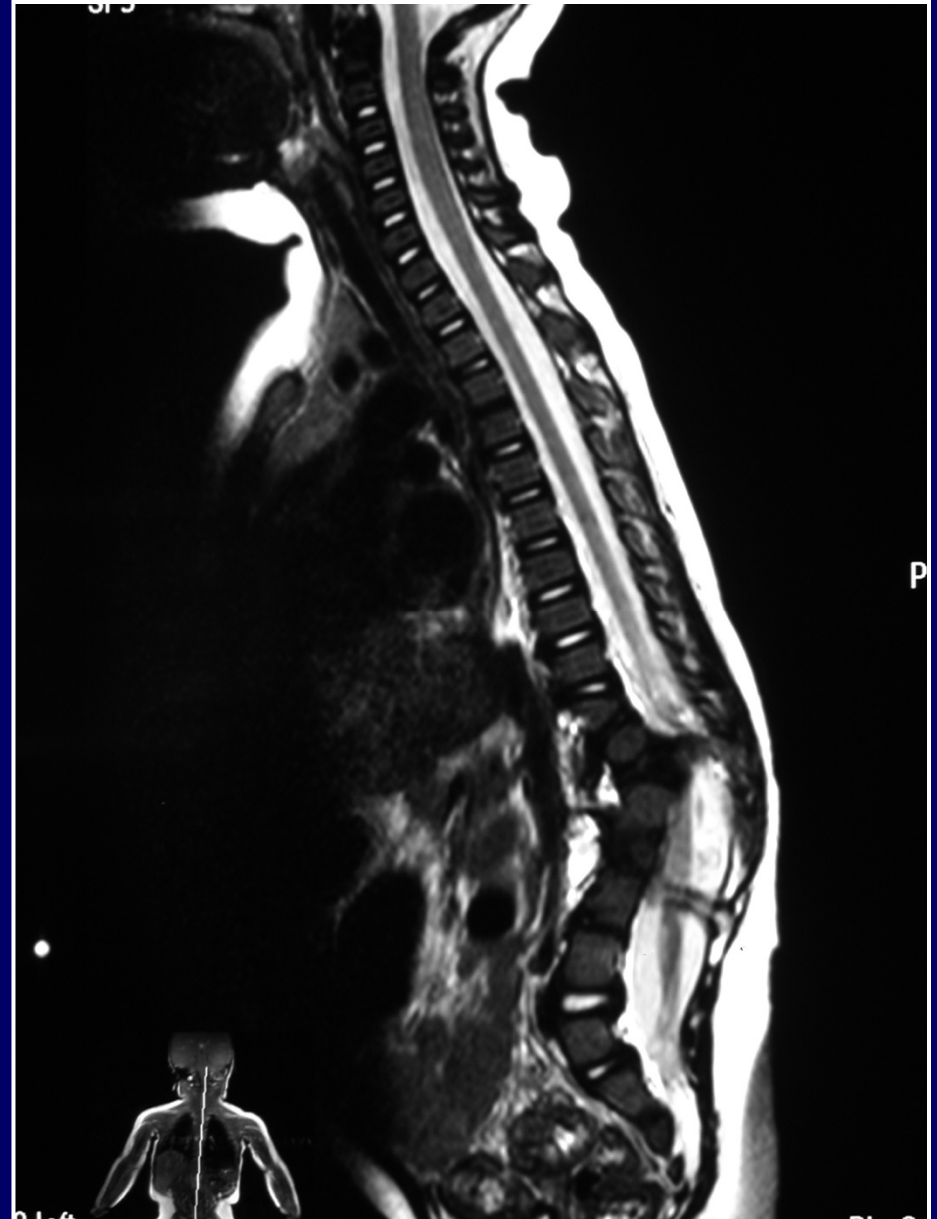


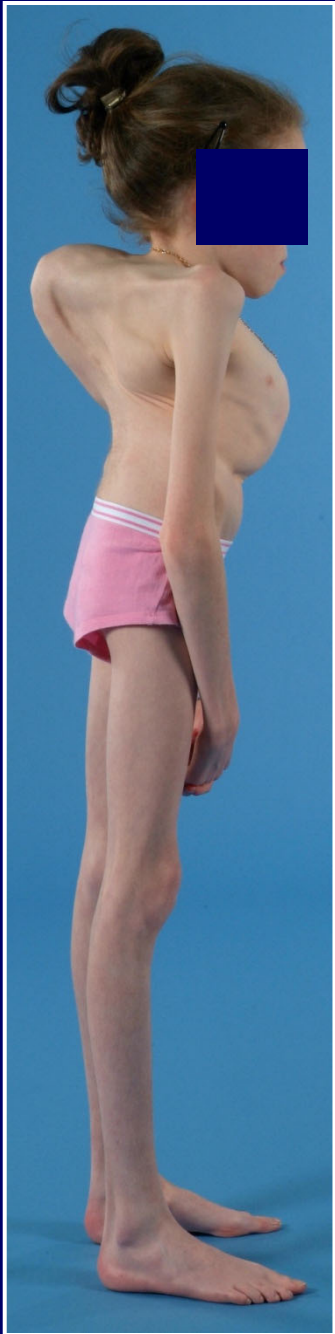
Spinal Cord Compression

- the most dreaded complication
- only occurs with an anterior failure of vertebral body formation (Type I)



- prevalence of spinal cord compression
 - McMaster and Singh 10%
 - Winter et al. 12%
- onset of symptoms usually during adolescence with variable size of kyphosis
- untreated always results in paraplegia





Dangerous

- Unilateral unsegmented bar with or without contralateral hemivertebra
- Anterolateral unsegmented bar with or without contralateral hemivertebra
- Fully-segmented hemivertebra (LS)
- Posterior or posterolateral hemivertebra → neurological complications

Benign

- Block vertebra
- Anterior unsegmented bar
- Unsegmented hemivertebra
- Incarcerated hemivertebra
- Semi-segmented hemivertebra
(unless LS)

Surgical treatment

- age of the patient
- type of vertebral anomaly
- type and size of deformity
- presence of spinal cord compression

Select the correct procedure and apply at the appropriate time

Treatment Principles

- not possible to create growth of the spine on the deficient side
- early surgical treatment is required to balance spinal growth and prevent a severe deformity and spinal cord compression
- anticipate deformity progression based on patient age and type of anomaly

Thank you for your attention

