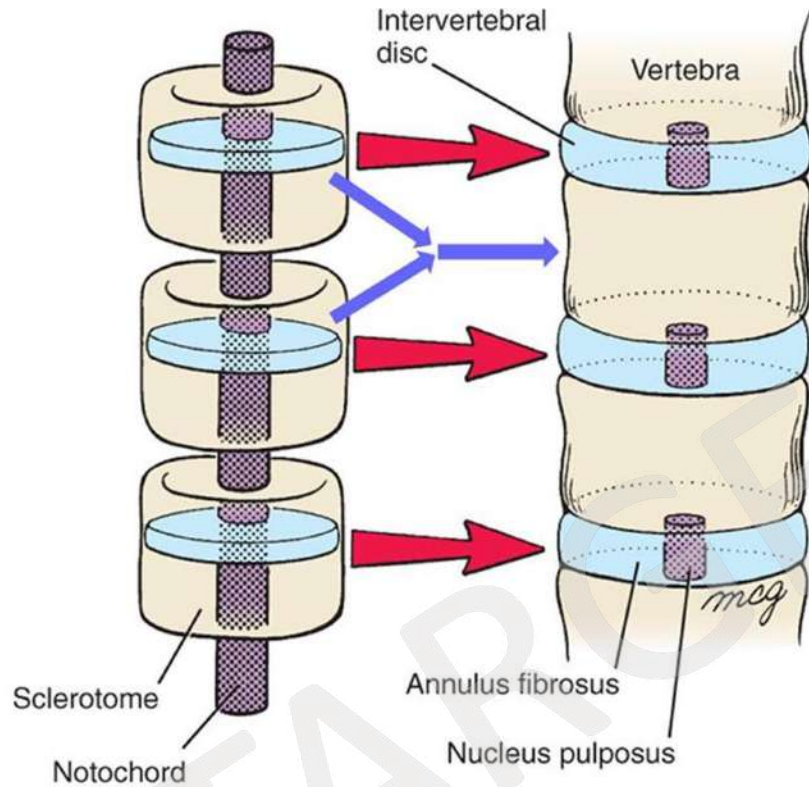


# Congenital and Early onset scoliosis



Shalin Shah

Fellow in Pediatric Orthopaedics

M.S. Ortho, DNB Ortho



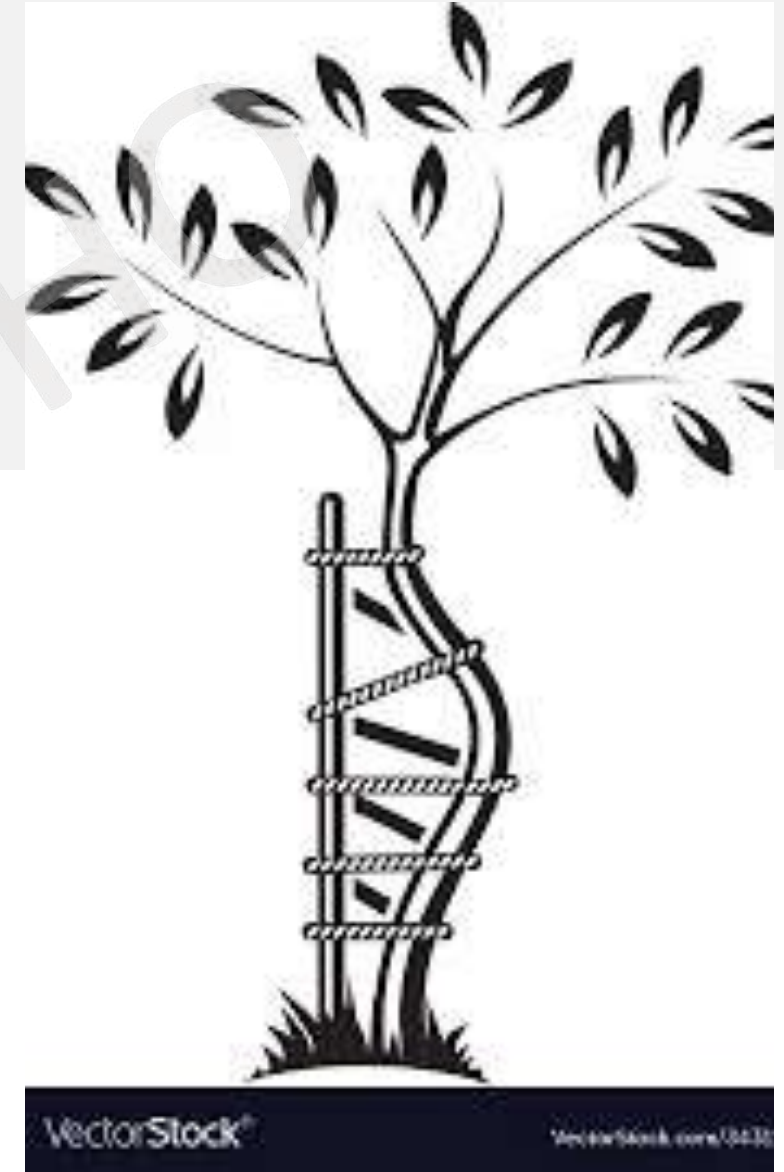






Orthopedics-

Making the child straight

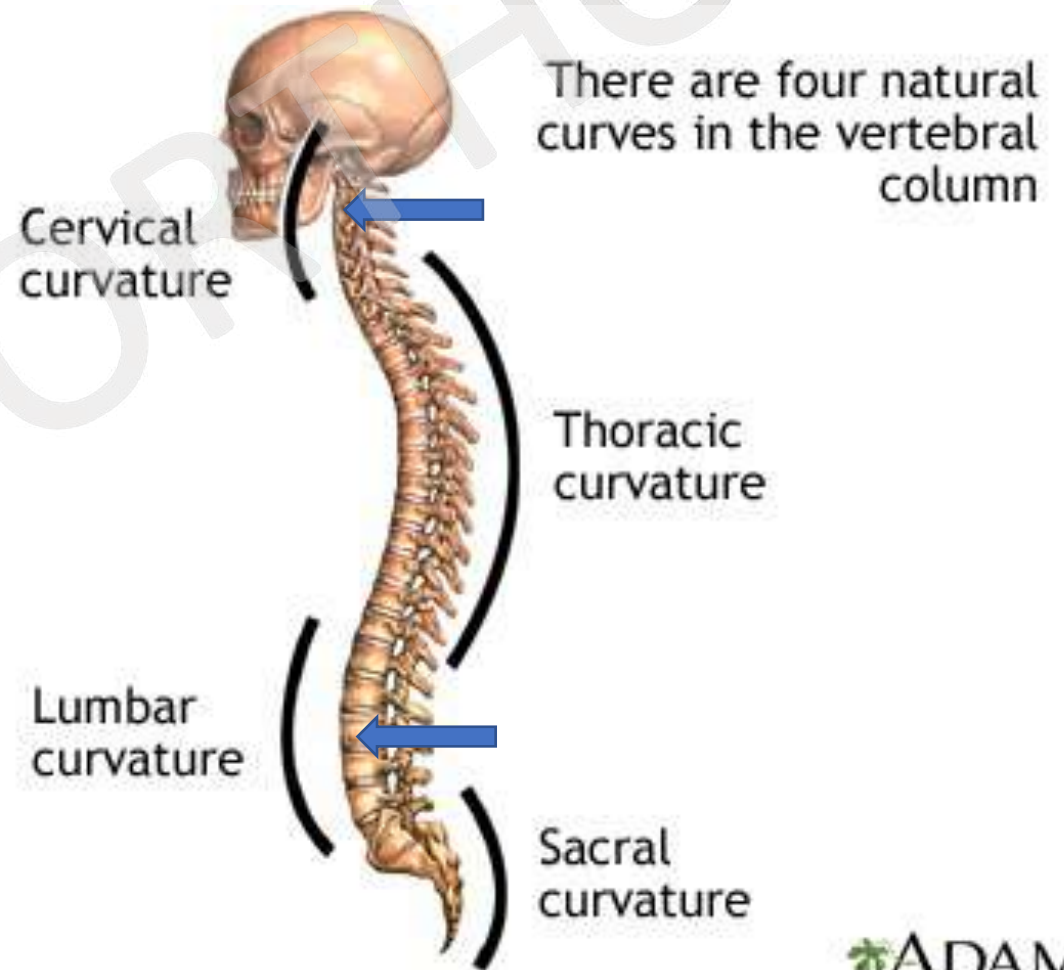


# Opportunities in EOS



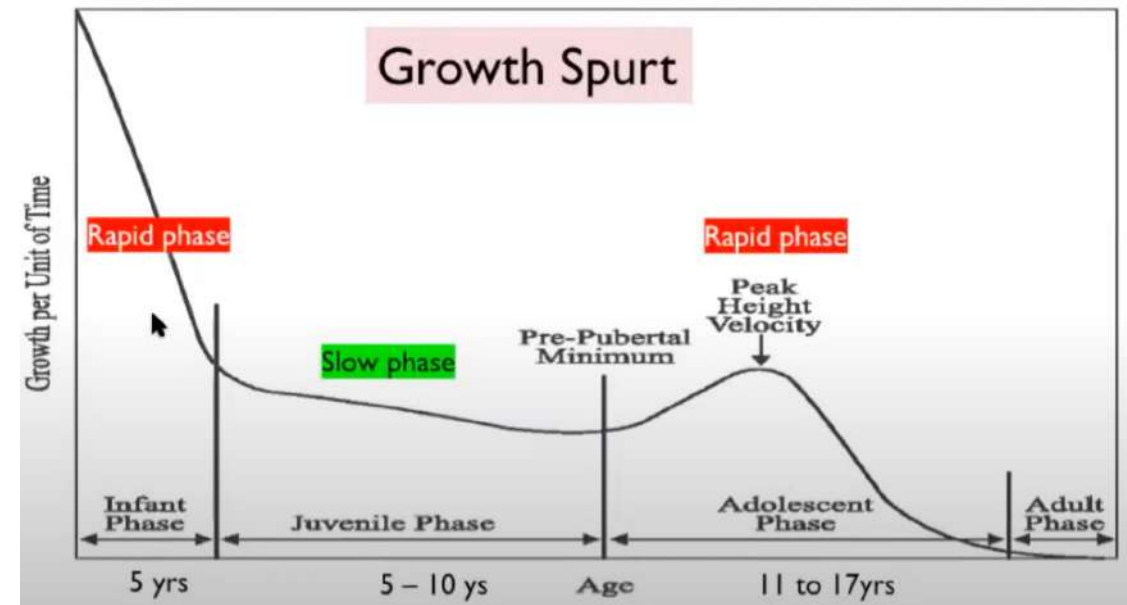
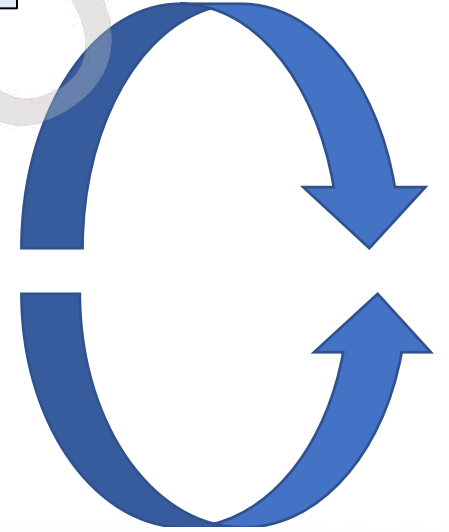
# Normal Spine Curvatures

- Cervical lordosis develops with head holding
- Lumbar lordosis develops with sitting and walking



# History of the terminology

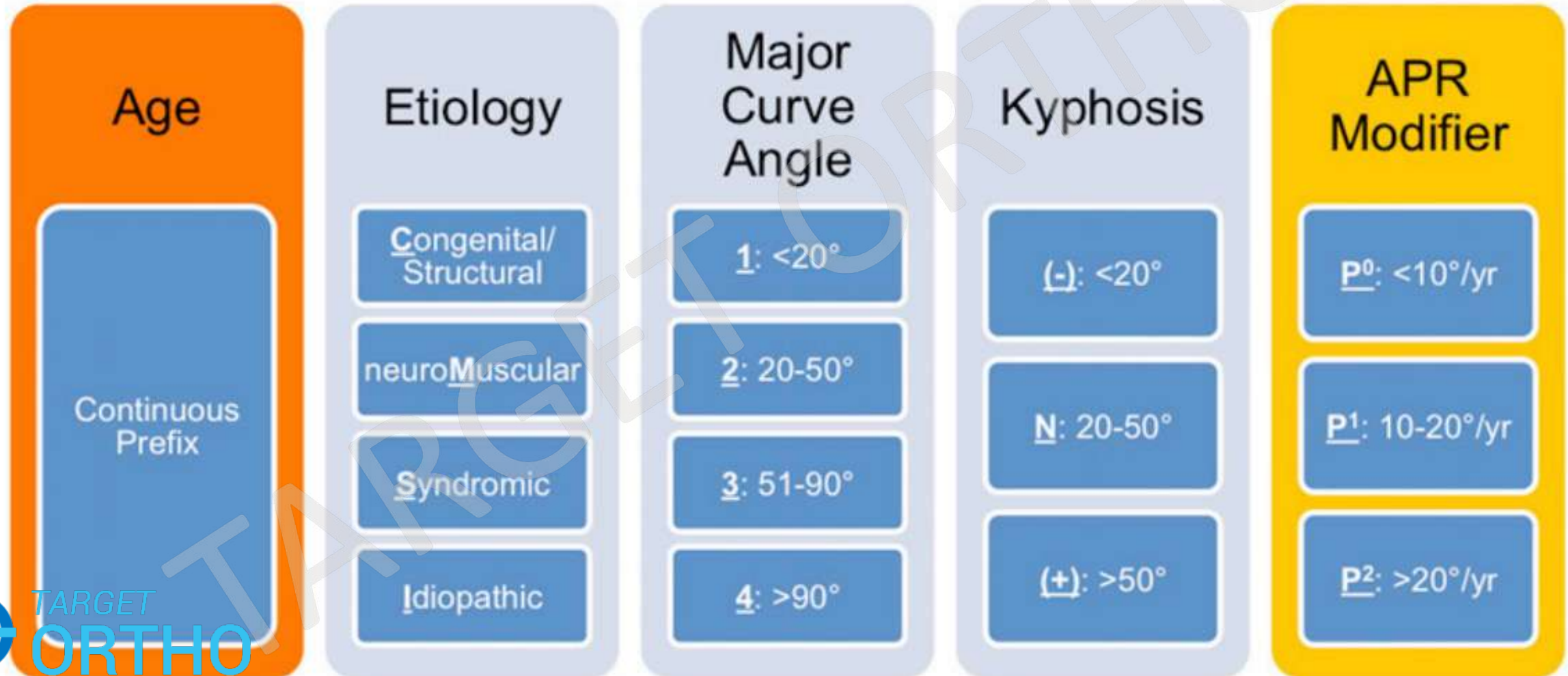
- Ponseti & Friedman : EOS = <10 Years
- James: <3 Year **Infantile**; 4-9 Years **Juvenile**;  
>10 Year **Adolescent**
- Dickson **Early onset** <5 yrs, **Late onset** >5 years
- Growing Spine Study Group (GSSG) and the Children Spine Study Group (CSSG) :  
Any deformity before 10 years





# GSSG/ CSSG-

APR= Annular Progression Rate





# Etiology includes :

- Infantile Idiopathic Scoliosis
- Congenital Scoliosis.
- Syndromic/ Neuromuscular  
Idiopathic Scoliosis

Most commonly presents in children ages 3 years or less.

Due to the failure of normal vertebral development during 4th to 6th week of gestation

Associated NM/ Systemic disorder

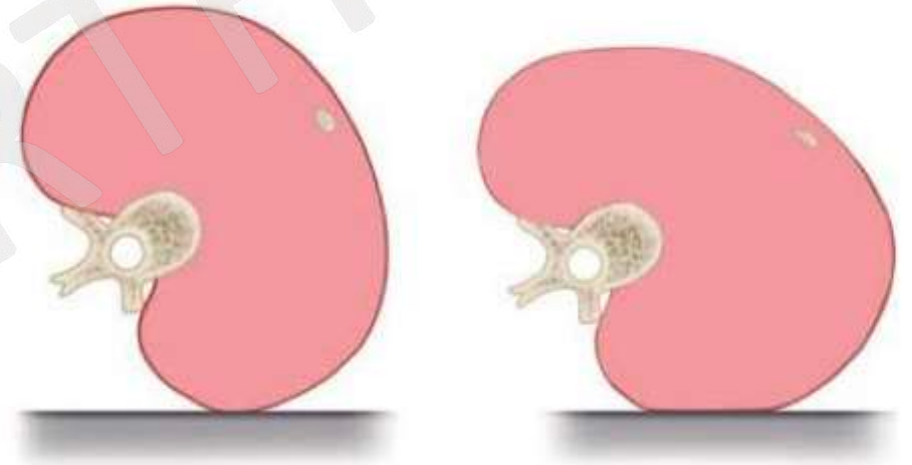
# Difference from AIS

	EOS	AIS
Onset of deformity	<10 Yrs	>10 Yrs
Etiology	Varies: Cong, Syn, NM, Id	Id
Spinal Height	<50% developed	>50% Developed
Height of Patient	<50%	>80%
Thoracic Volume	Less	Fully developed
Lung Development	<80%	>80%
Respiratory capacity	Less	Normal
Mortality	High	Low
Curve magnitude at maturity	High	Low
Surgical difficulty, Complication	High	Less

# Pathophysiology

- Most of the curves during first year of life,
- Infants have a natural tendency to turn toward the right side,
- Plasticity of the infant's axial skeleton, this can lead to :

Plagiocephaly,  
Bat ear on the right side,  
& curvature of the spine toward the left side



**FIGURE 44-1** Diagram illustrates postural molding of thorax when infant is laid supine and partly turned toward the side.



# Etiology

1. Mechanical factors during intrauterine life are responsible for the higher incidence
2. A second hypothesis suggests multifactorial causes, :  
genetic factors that are either facilitated or inhibited by external factors
3. Other associations include older mothers from poorer families, breech presentation (CO Exposure), and premature and male low-birth-weight babies.

# History and Physical examination

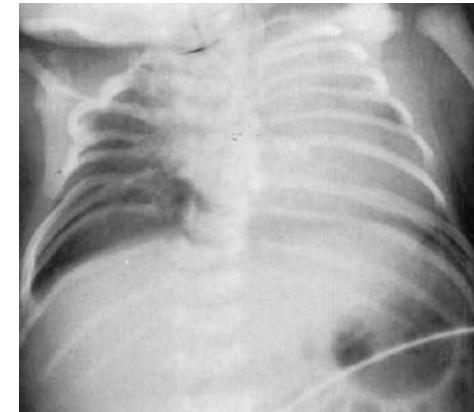
## History

- Antenatal Scan
- Exposure to teratogens/ Carbon monoxide
- DM/ Hyperthermia/ Anticonvulsant
- Postural
- Repeated infection



# Examination

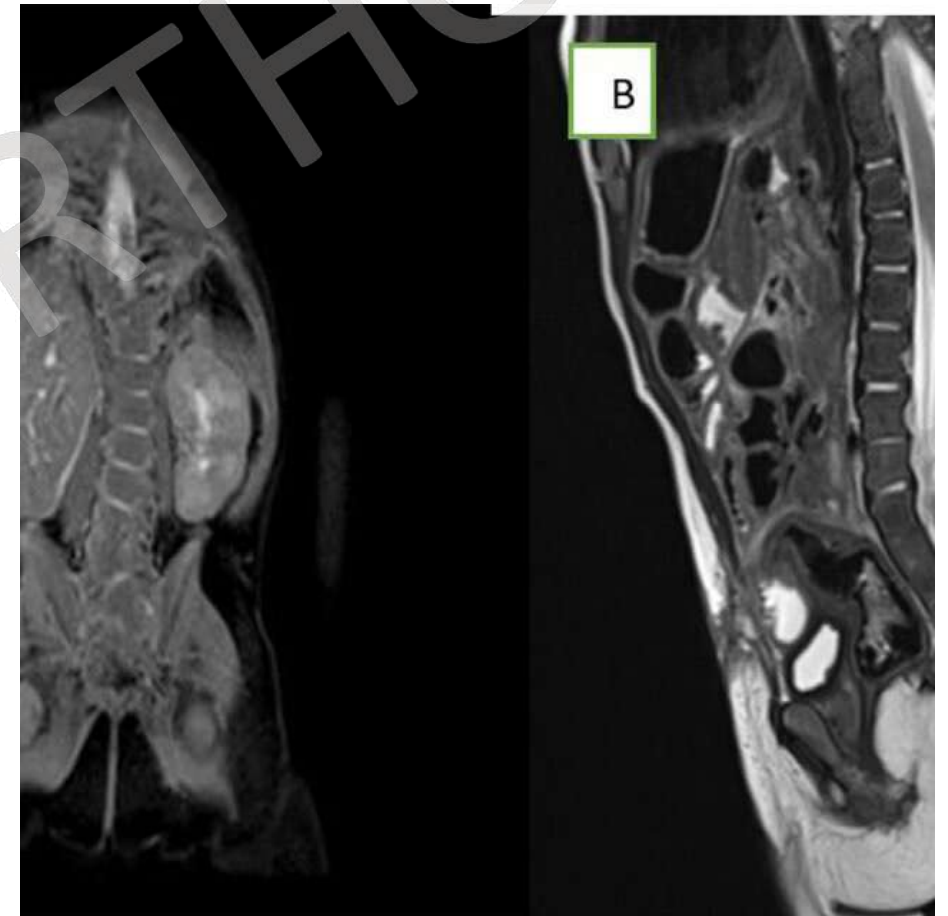
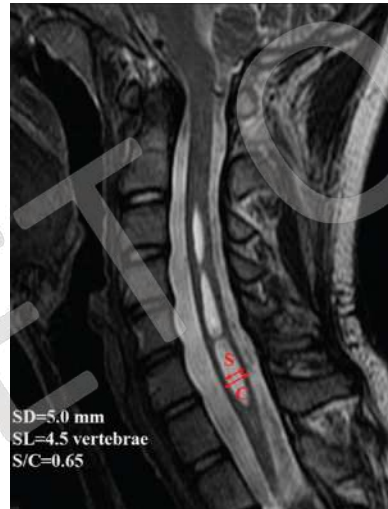
- Head to toe exam
- Neurologic examination
- Neurocutaneous markers
- Chest wall examination
- Scoliosis special tests
- Assessment of Renal/  
Cardiac system





# Associated anomalies

- Present in upto 60% patients
- Renal 20% (USG +/- Doppler)
- Cardiac 25% (2D Echo)
- Neurologic 10-35% (MRI)



# Thorax assesment

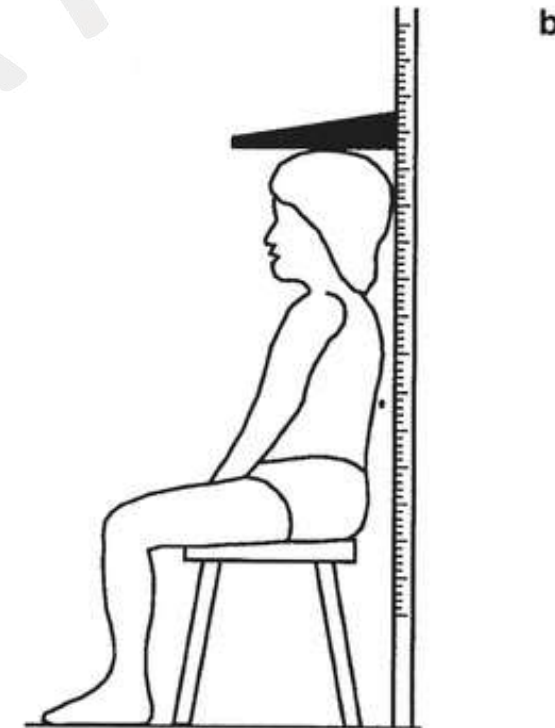
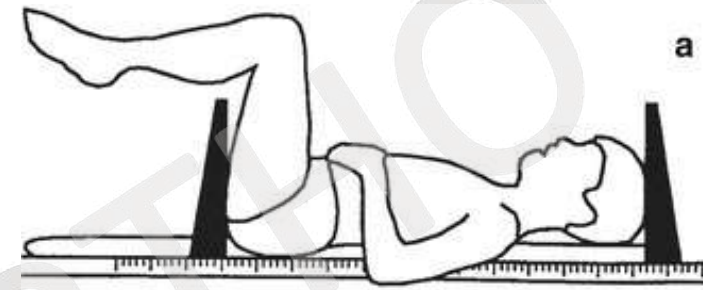
- Sitting Height
- Thorax abnormalities
- TIS

## Aim in infantile scoliosis:

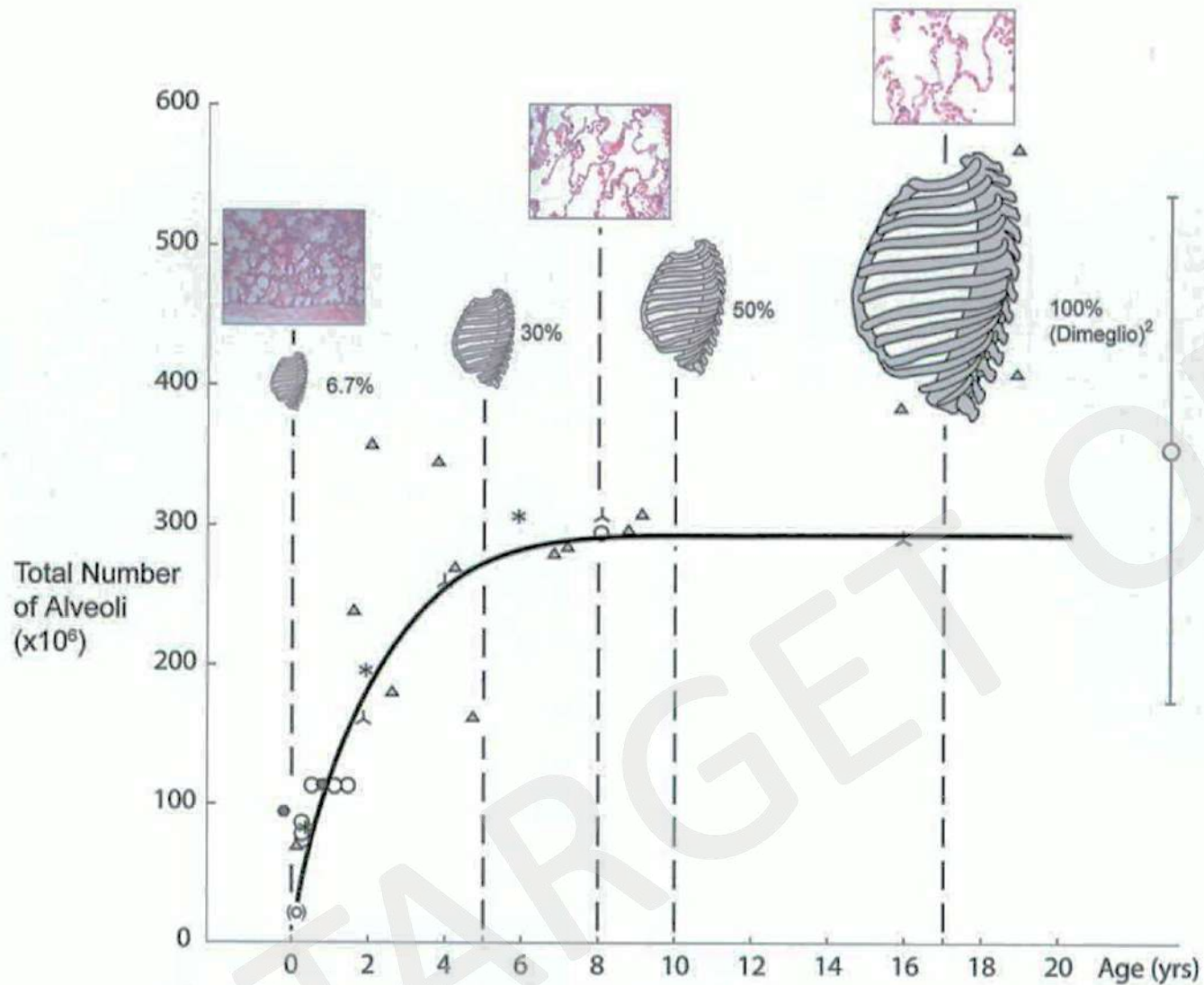
Wt >40 Kg,

Vital Capacity > 50%,

Length 22cm thoracic spine,  
T1-S1 30 cm







Vital capacity 50%  
at 10 years

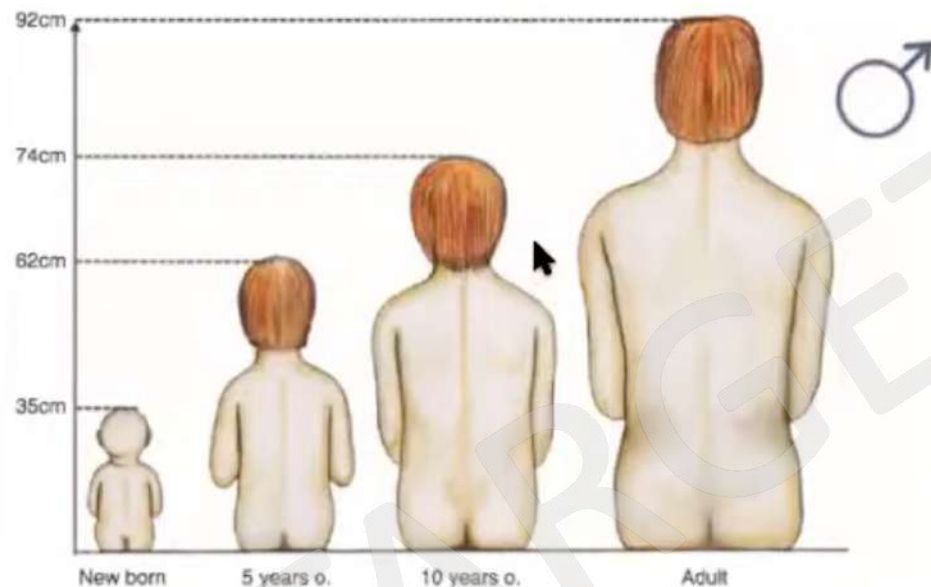
# Sitting height

## T1-S1 Length

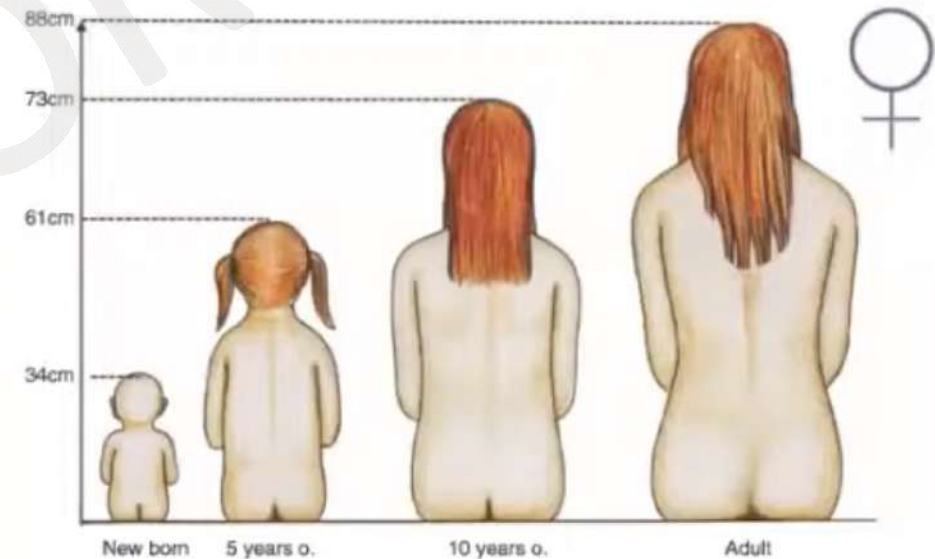
1<sup>st</sup> 5 years: 10 cm (2cm/yr)  
5-10 years: 5 cms (1cm/ yr)  
Adolescence: 10 cm (2 cm/yr)

## Thoracic spine height

At birth 11 cm  
At 5 years 18 cm  
At 10 years 22 cm



Average Sitting Height in Boys



Average Sitting Height in Girls

Scoliosis at early age



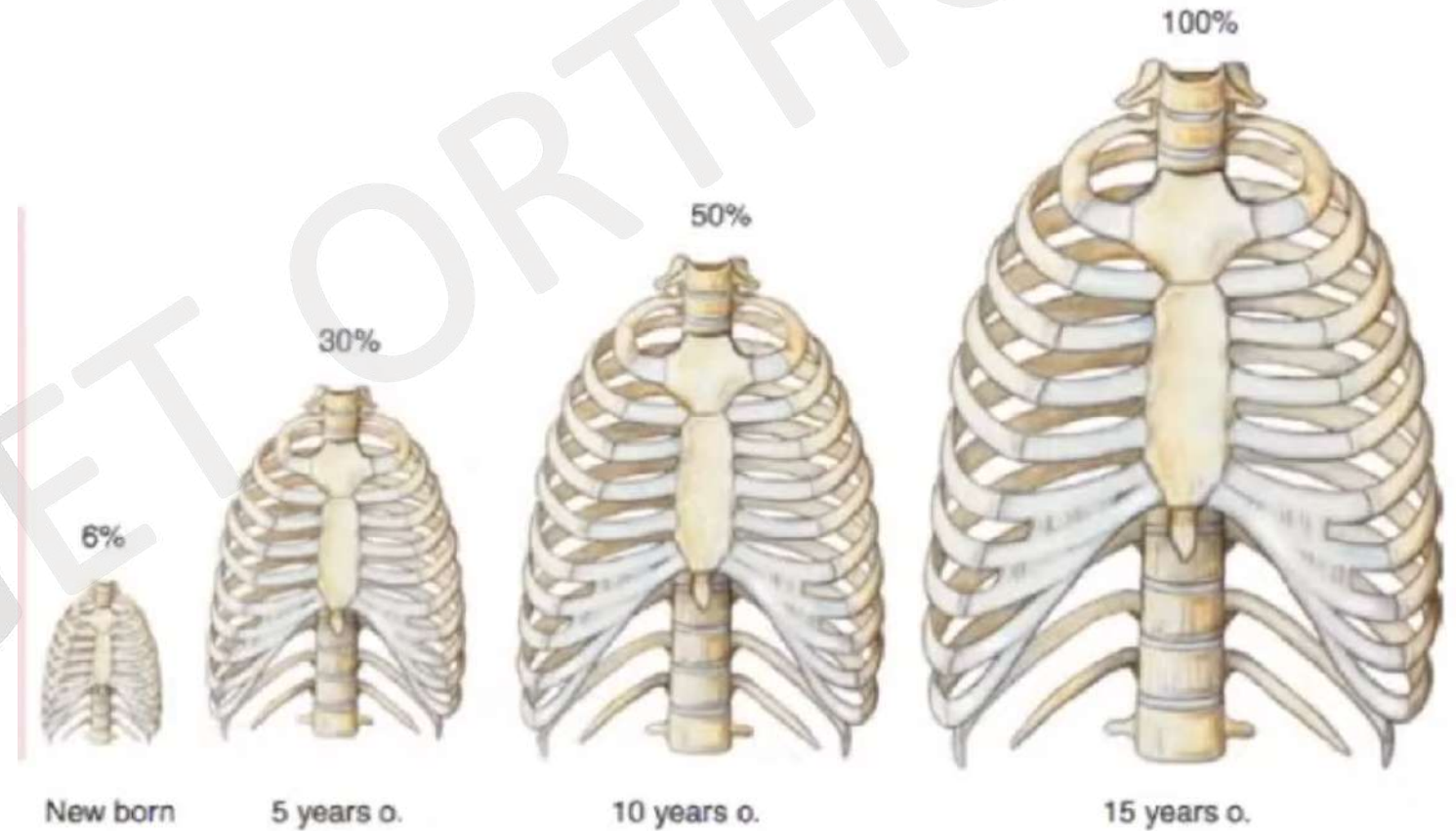
Thoracic development affected



Lung development and volume affected



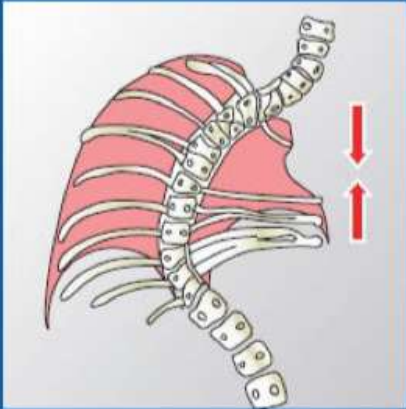
Restrictive lung disease





# Volume Depletion Deformities of the Thorax

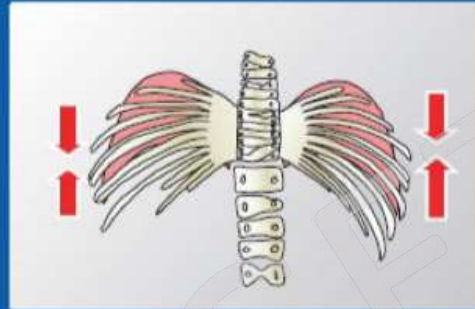
I



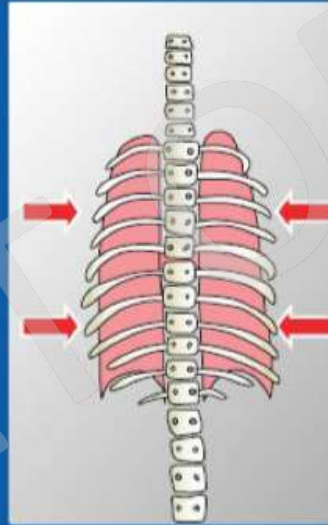
II



III a



III b



**TABLE 109.1 Volume Depletion Deformities (VDDs) of the Thorax<sup>3</sup>**

*Unilateral thoracic volume depletion deformity*

**Type I** Absent ribs and scoliosis

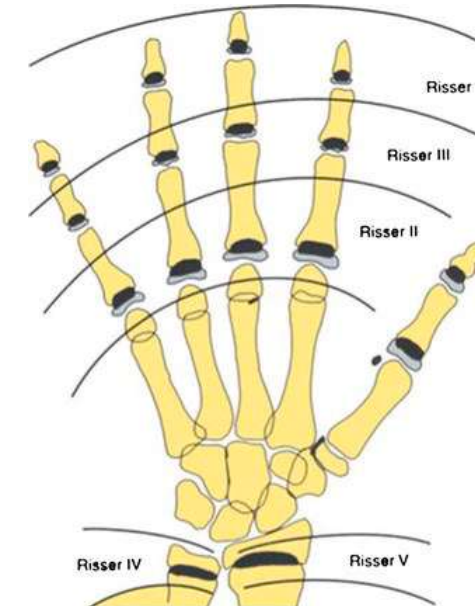
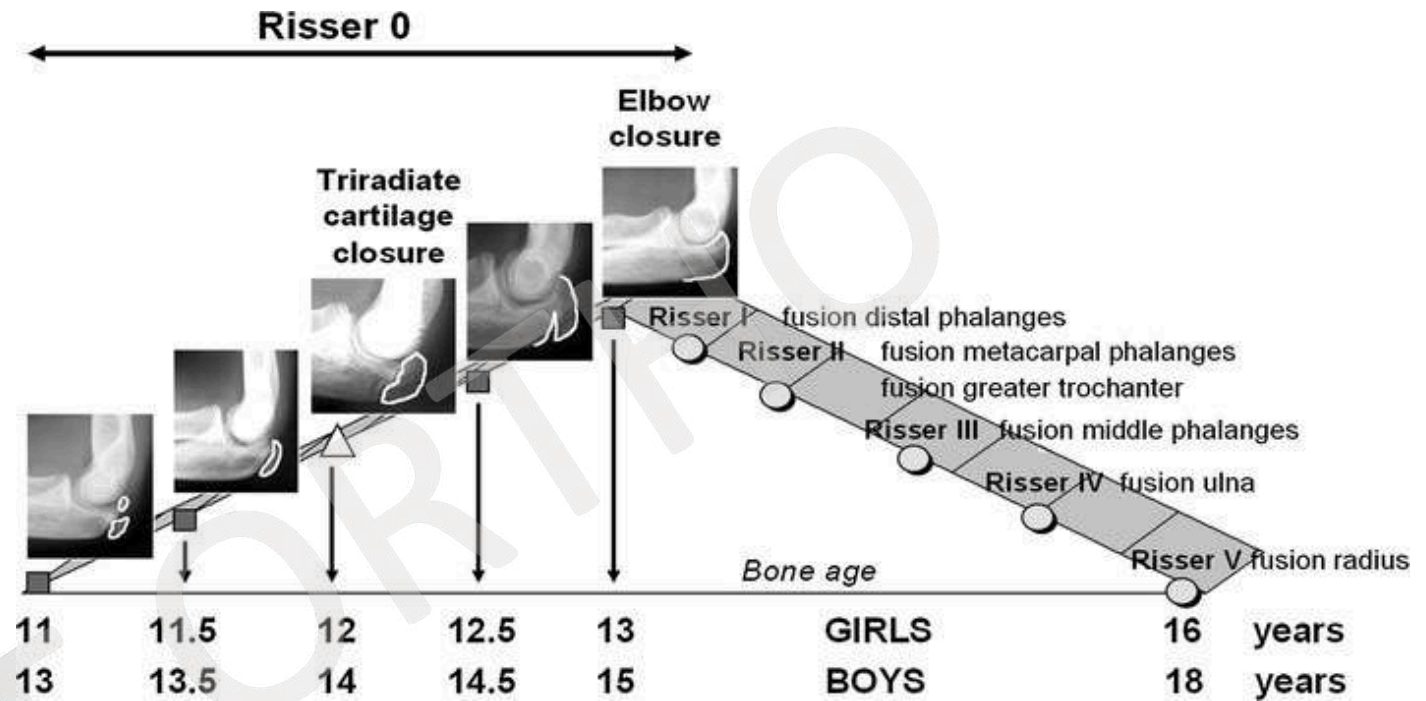
**Type II** Fused ribs and scoliosis

*Global thoracic volume depletion deformity*

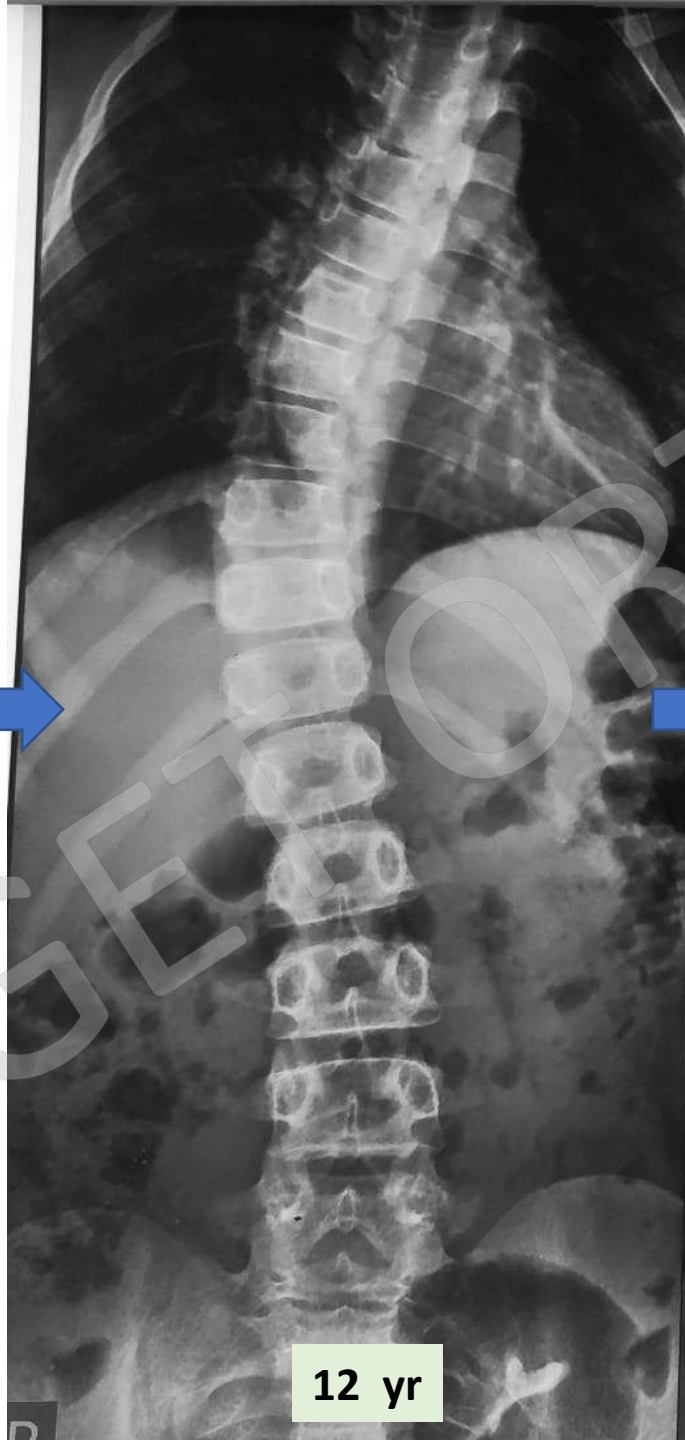
**Type IIIa** Jarcho–Levin syndrome

**Type IIIb** Jeune syndrome, early-onset scoliosis

# Radiological assessment of remaining growth

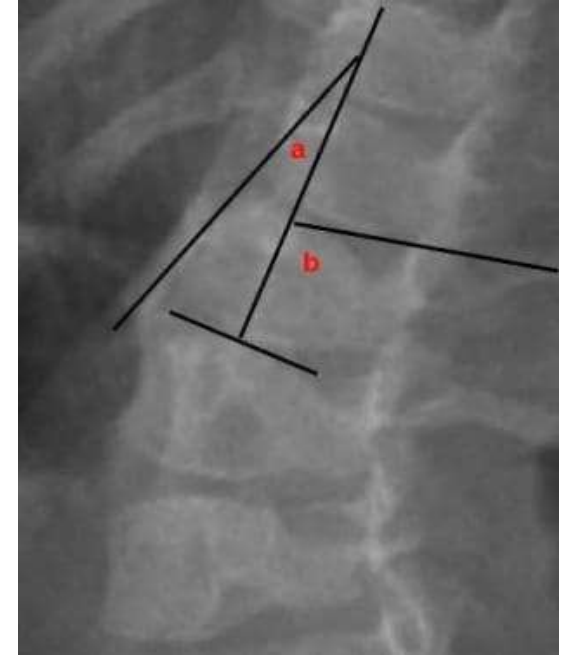
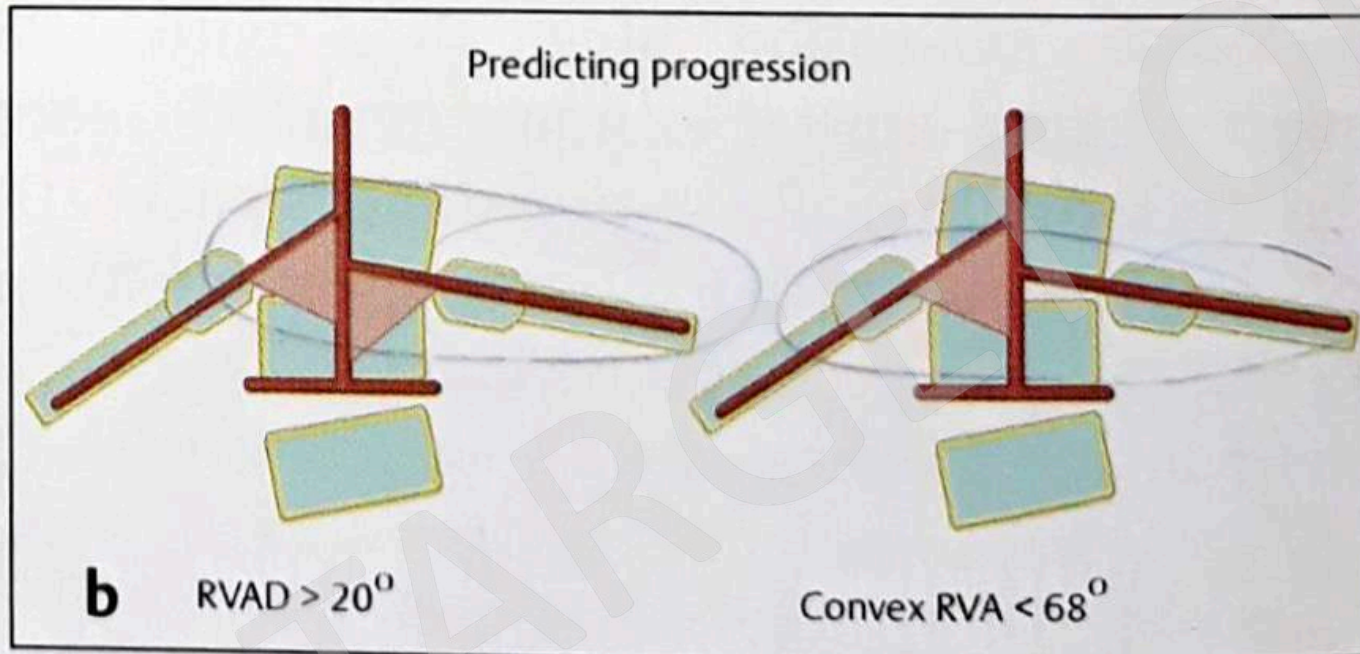
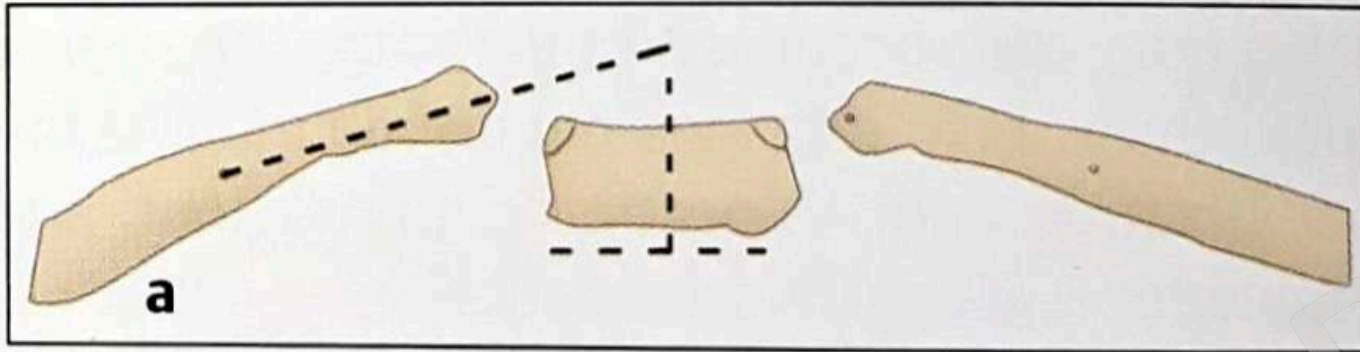






Rib Vertebral angle difference (RVAD)

Mehta's RVAD  $>20^{\circ}$  is an indication for interventions as these curves are likely to progress

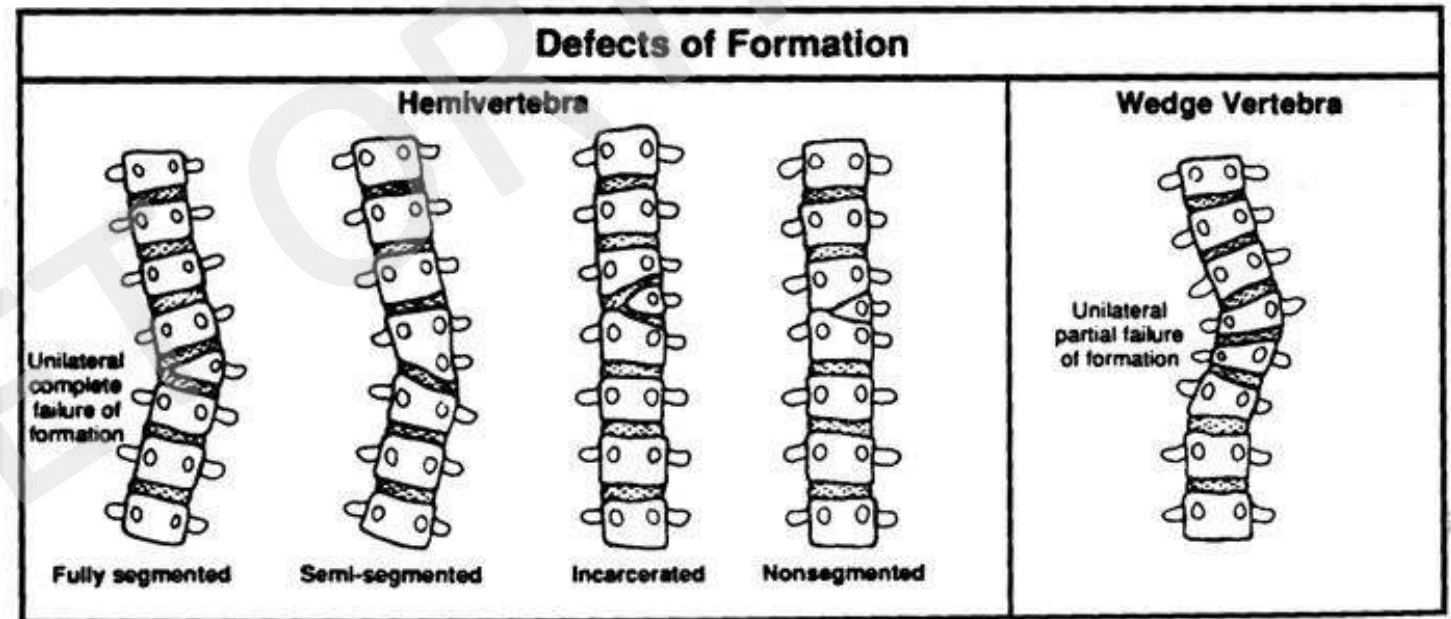




# Congenital: Formation/ Segmentation defects

1. Wedge
2. Hemi

- Segmented: Disc above, Below
- Semi Segmented: Fused above/Below
- Incarcerated: Pedicle lines with above and below
- Non-Segmented: Fused above and below

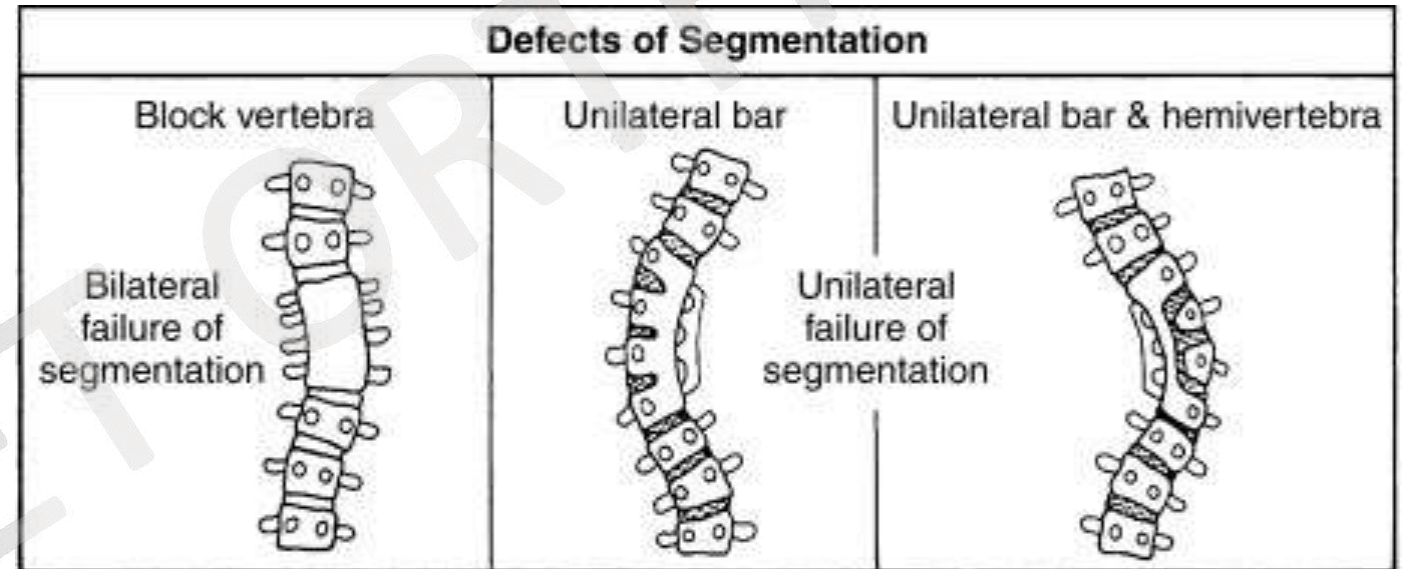


*Open disc= Growth Potential ++*

# Congenital: Formation/ Segmentation defects

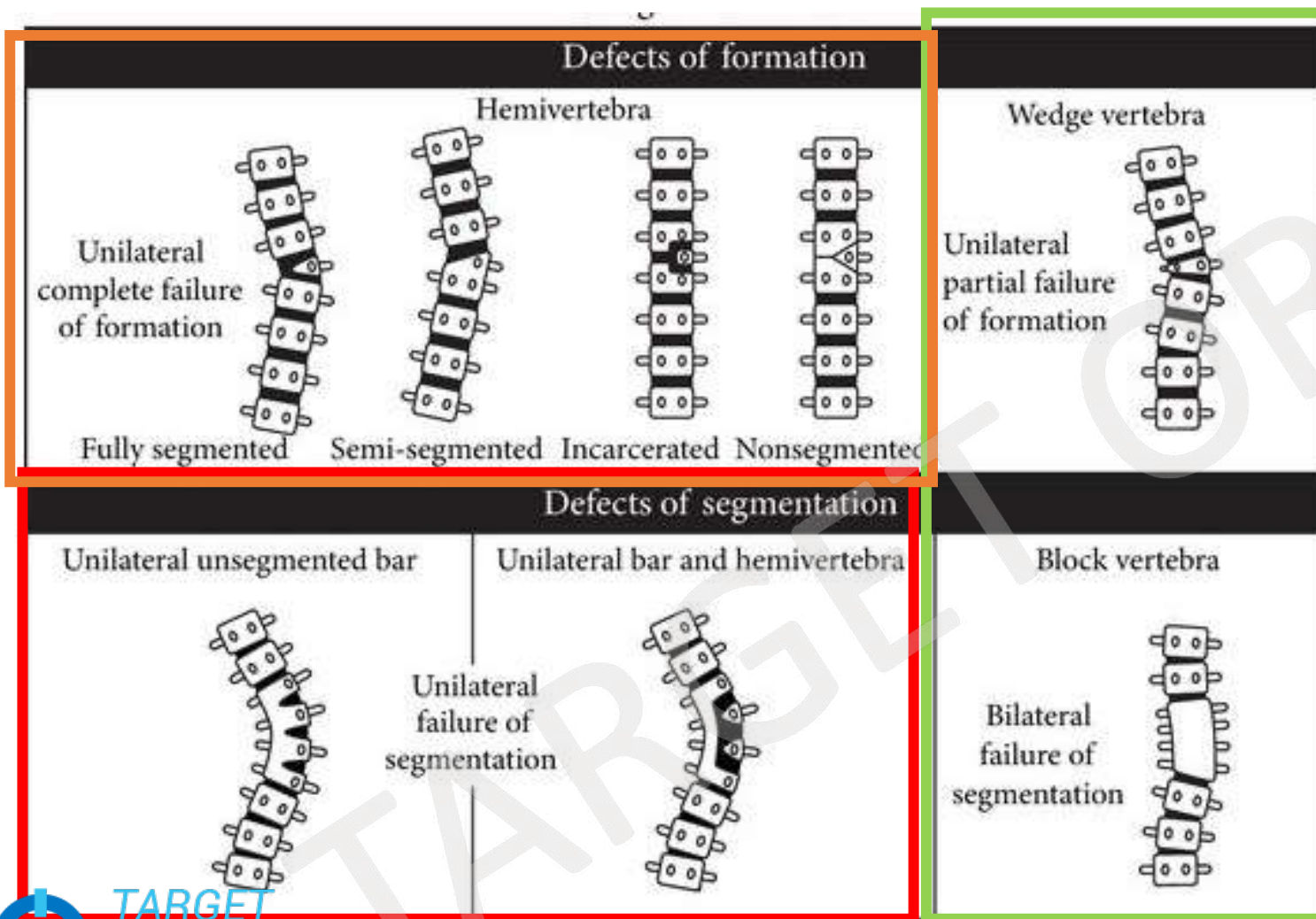
1. Block
2. Bar

- With/ Without hemivertebra



*Hemi vertebra = Growth Potential ++*

# Types of Congenital Scoliosis



Unilateral unsegmented bar with contralateral hemivertebra (5 to 10 degrees/year) >

Unilateral unsegmented bar >

Fully segmented hemivertebra >

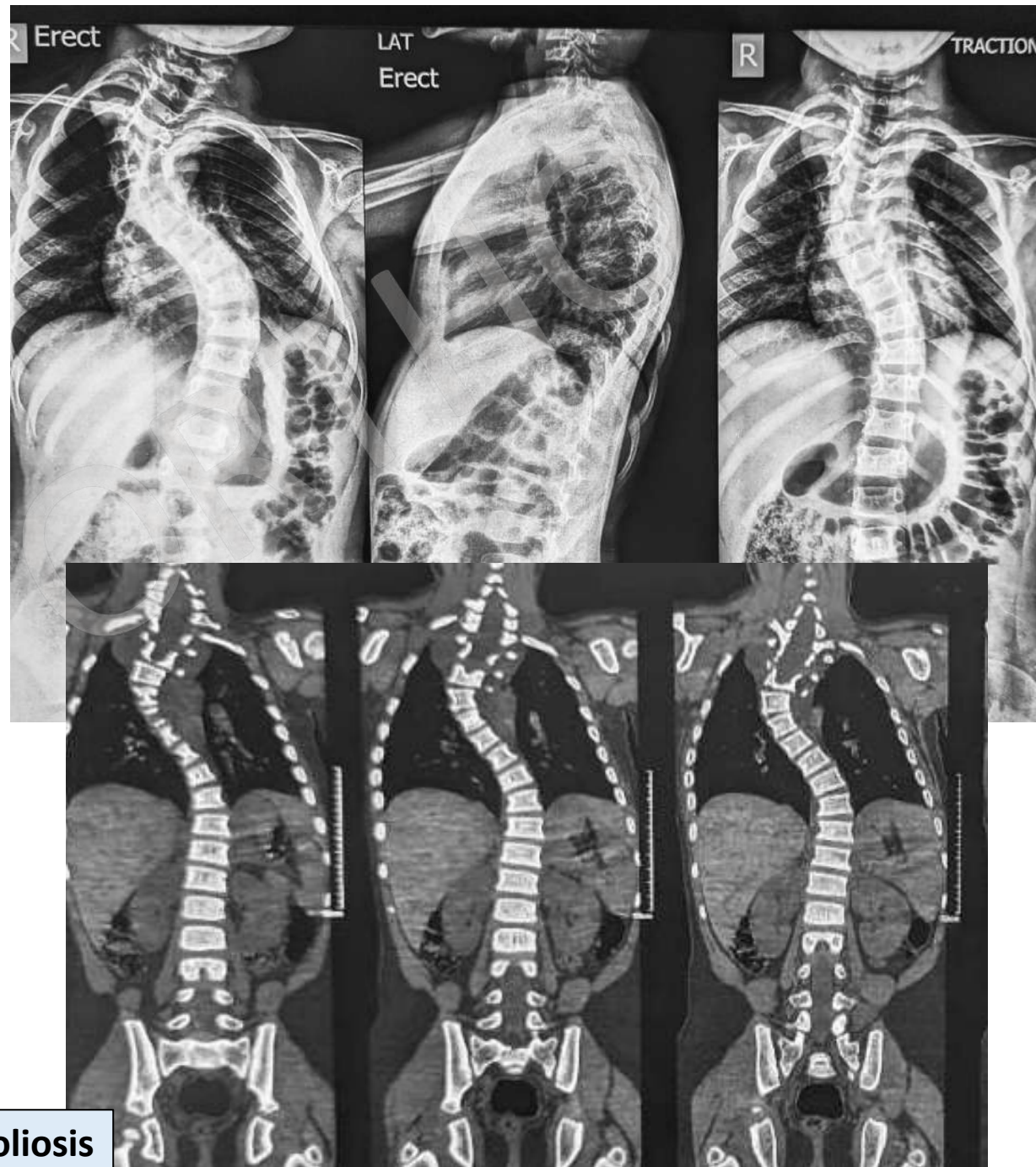
Unincarcerated hemivertebra >

Incarcerated hemivertebra >

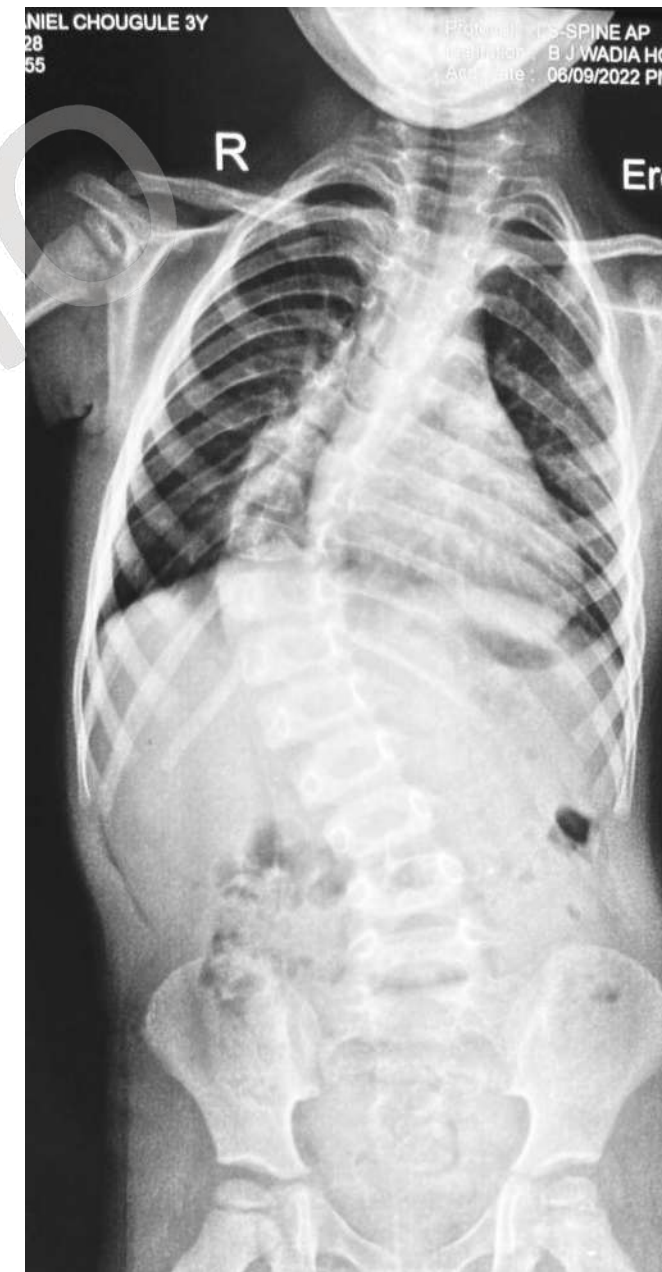
Unsegmented hemivertebra >

Block vertebrae (< 2 degrees/year)











**Prader willi Syndrome**





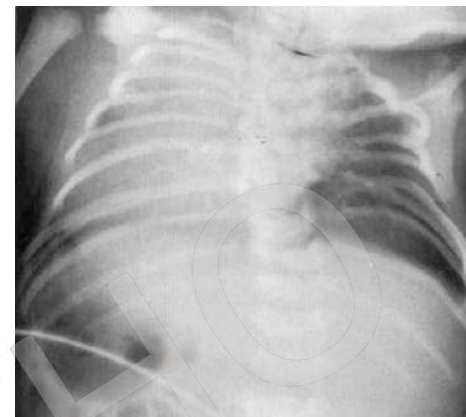
Short neck, short trunk and a constricted thorax

Multiple Rib and vertebral anomalies

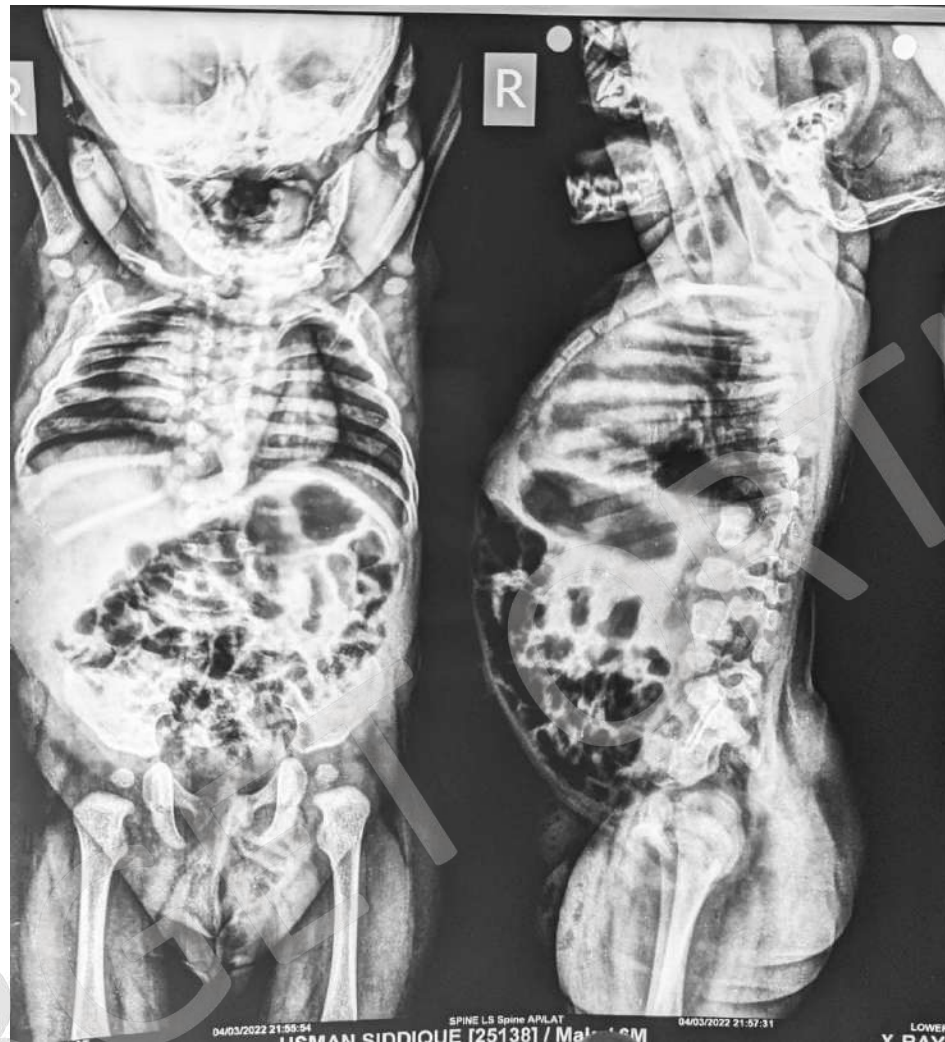
Multiple childhood respiratory infection

(C) www.targetortho.com

**Spinocostal Dysplasia**



Short neck, short trunk  
and a constricted thorax  
Multiple Rib and  
vertebral anomalies  
Multiple childhood  
respiratory infection



Jarcho Levine Syndrome



Hyperlaxity,  
Increased arm span,  
Caardiac defects



Marfan's Syndrome



Abnormal development of the:  
eye, ear and spine.

Also known as

*"oculo-auriculo-vertebral spectrum"*

*- no scoliosis in Treacher collins*



Goldenhaar Syndrome

1. Hairy patches - Spina bifida or diastematomyelia
2. Subcutaneous tumors - Neurofibromatosis
3. Pigmented lesions - Neurofibromatosis
4. Excessive flexibility - Ehlers–Danlos or Marfan syndrome
5. Joint contractures- Cerebral palsy or arthrogryposis
6. Craniofacial abnormalities- Syndromic scoliosis
7. Weakness of extremities- Neuromuscular scoliosis.

# To Conclude

- Interrelated growth of spine and thorax
- Associated Comorbidities

**COMPLEX  
Management**





## atric scoliosis: Managen



**Dr Hriday Acharya**

**Consultant Spine Surgeon**

MS Ortho( Gold medalist)

Fellowship in spine surgery

ASSI – Mumbai

Pediatric spine fellowship – B J Wadia

# Goals of Management

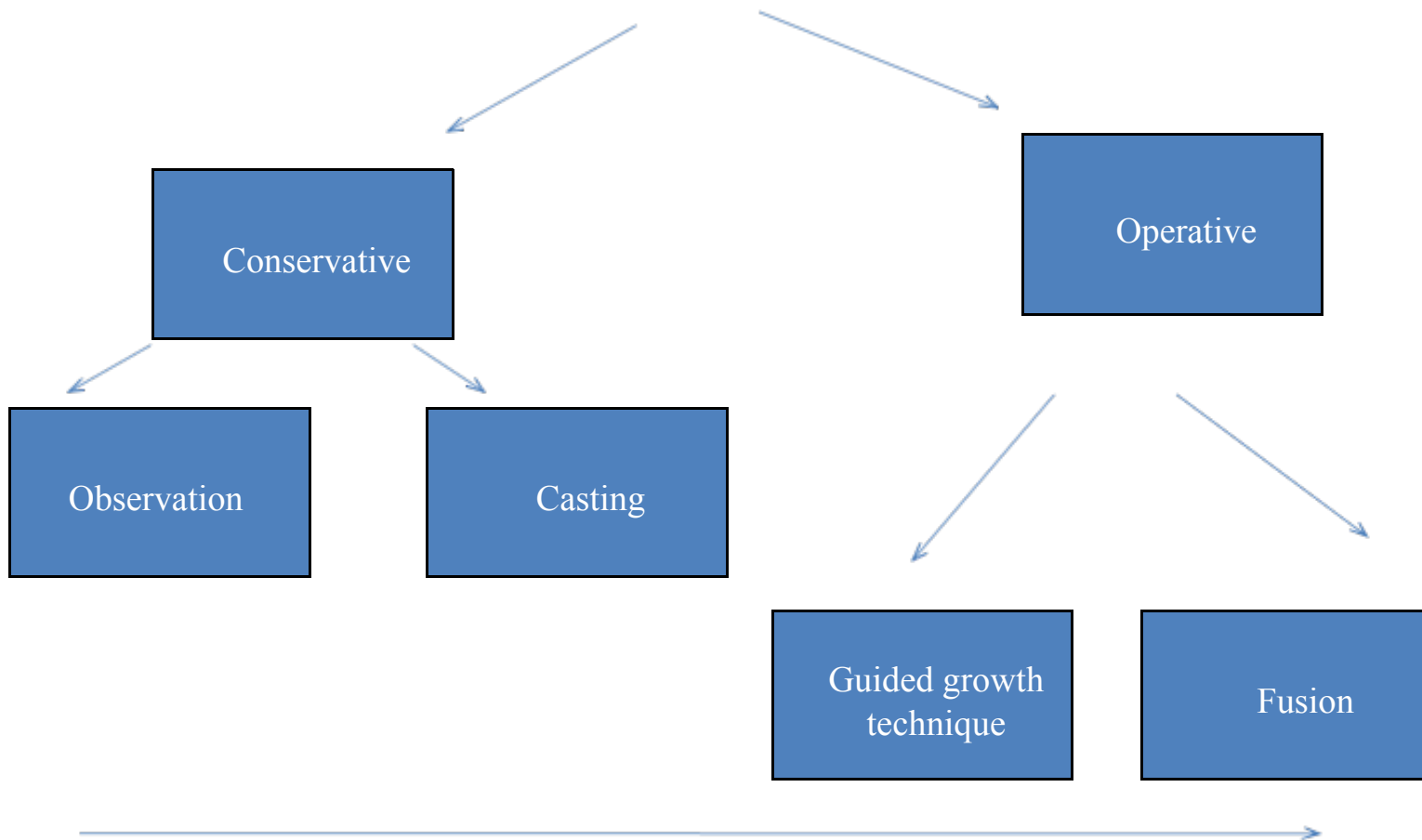
- Minimize spinal deformity over the life of the patient
- Maximize thoracic volume and function over the life of the patient
- Minimize the extent of any final spinal fusion
- Maximize motion of the chest and spine
- Minimize complications, procedures, hospitalizations, and burden for the family
- Consider overall development of the child

# How do I decide?

- Know the natural history
- Overall health / prognosis
- Size / stature of the child
- Walker ?
- Associated overt anomalies / syndromes
- MRI
- USG KUB, 2D Echo
- Document progress



# Management





# DIAGNOSIS?



2010



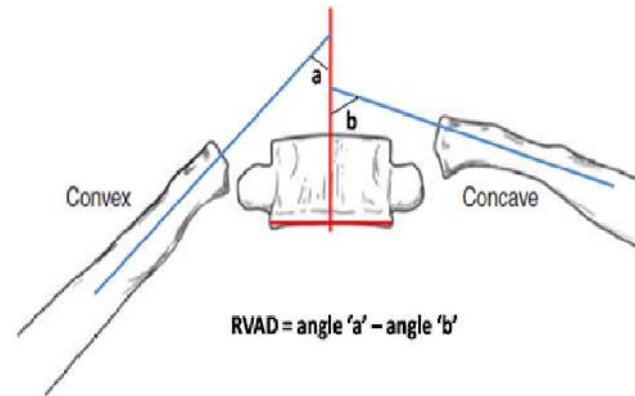
After 2  
years



After 3  
years

# Observation

- Cobbs  $< 25$
- RVAD  $< 20$



- Serial radiographs : 6 monthly
- Progression  $< 5$
- Cont to observe

**If not go to the  
next step : Casting**

# Casting



# Casting

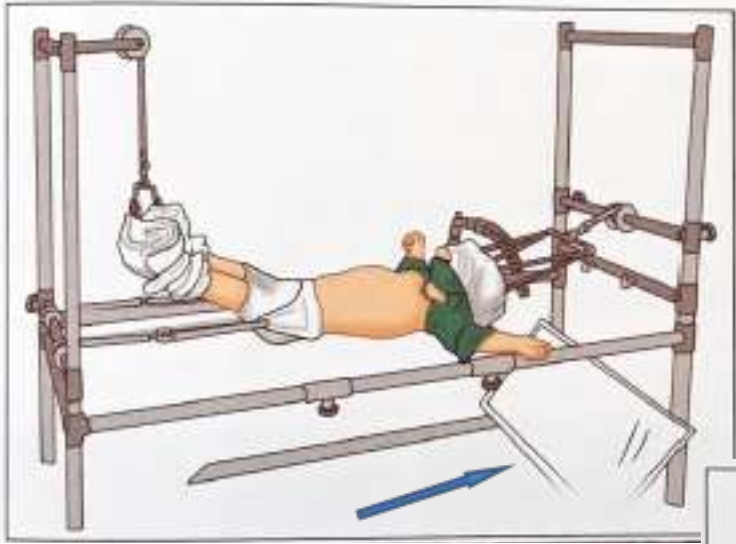
- Cobbs  $> 35$
- RAVD  $> 20$
- Can start as early as 1 years ( when the skin can tolerate cast)
- Done under GA ( better muscle relaxation, better tolerated by patients)





# Casting

- Risser developed first cast but no rotational correction
- Cotrel and Morel – EDF ( elongation, derotation & flexion cast )
- Mehta casting done by Dr Min Mehta popularized the EDF technique
- Limited for apex above T9



# Bracing

- Done as a weaning method
- Shift from cast to brace with 1-2 hr of brace free period
- Later shift to night bracing (Providence Nocturnal Scoliosis system)



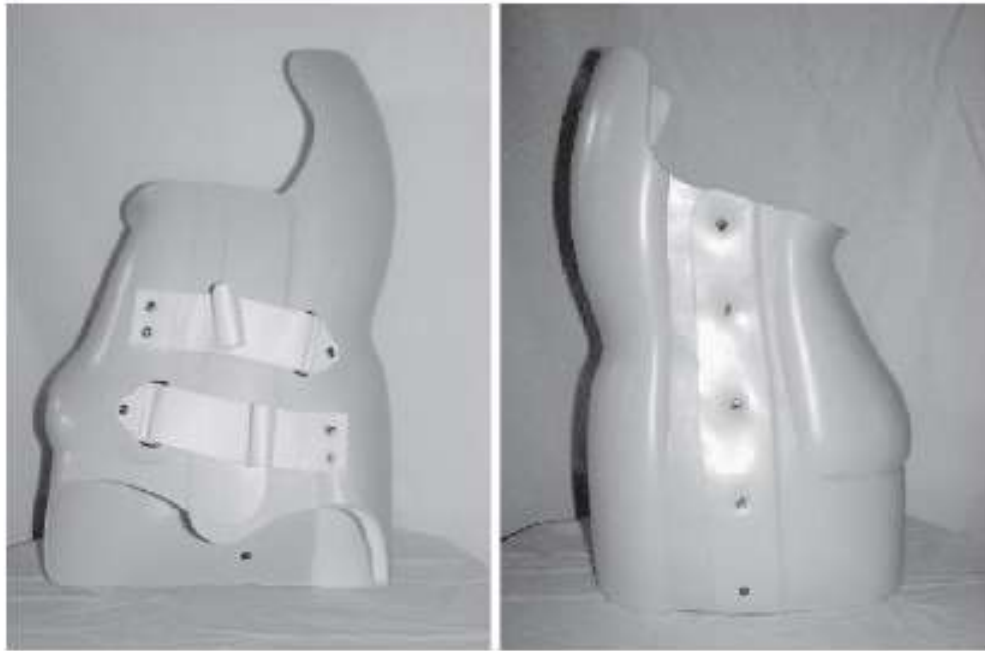
Boston Brace :  
TLSO  
Worn full day



Fig. 18.25 Milwaukee brace.

Milwaukee Brace :  
From neck to pelvis  
Best for curves above T8



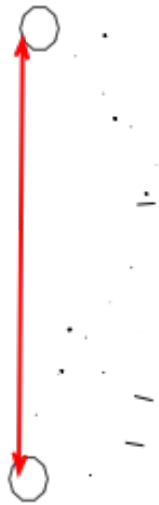


Charlston Brace :  
Designed for night wear as a  
weaning off brace

# Growth Guided procedure

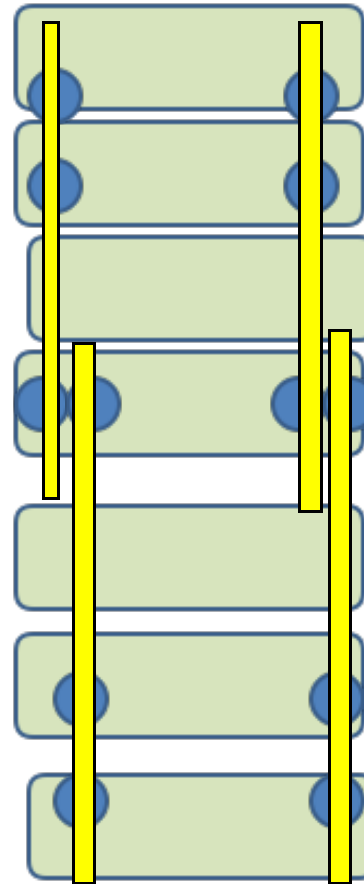
- Distraction based: Growth rods /VEPTERS / MAGEC rods
- Compression based : VBT / VBS
- Growth guided technique – Shilla technique

# DISTRACTION BASED TECHNIQUE



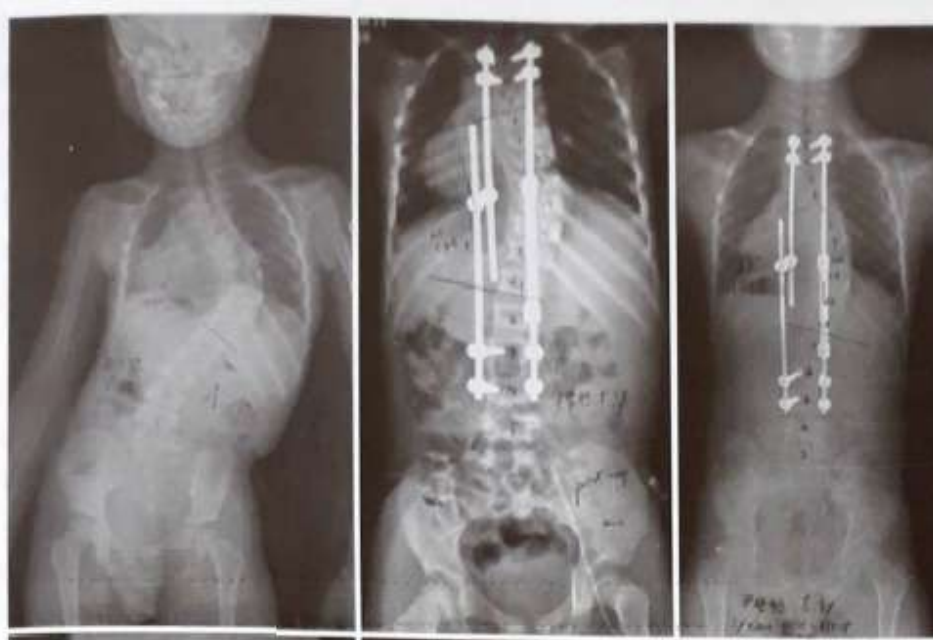
# Convetional Growth Rods.

- Curve  $>60$  degree
- Age less than 10 years
- Flexible curve
- All etiology
- Screw and rod construct
- Better hold then hooks
- Can be from pedicle to vertebra,  
Or rib or pelvos





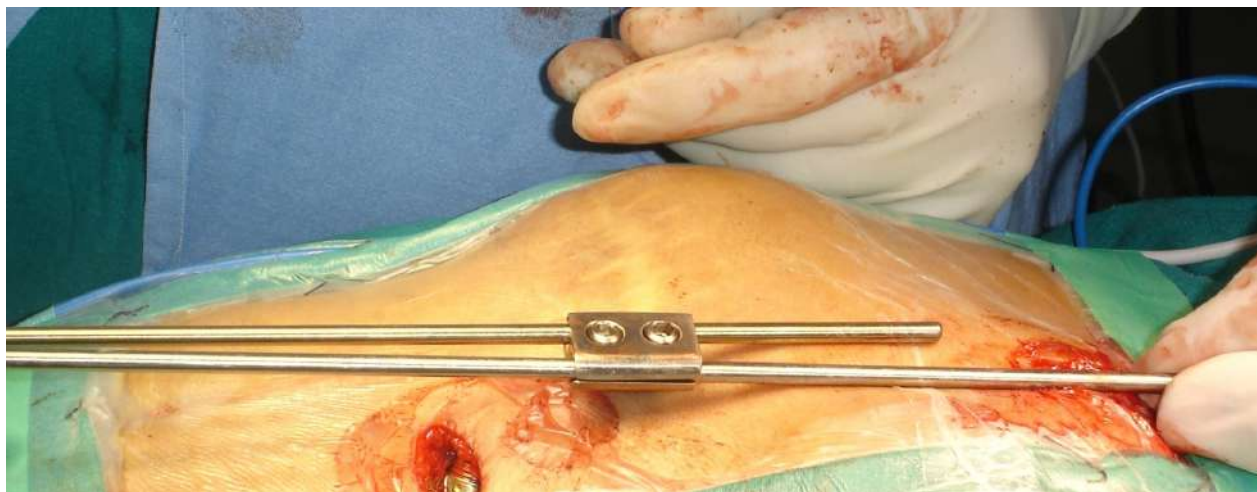
# Conventional Growth Rods.

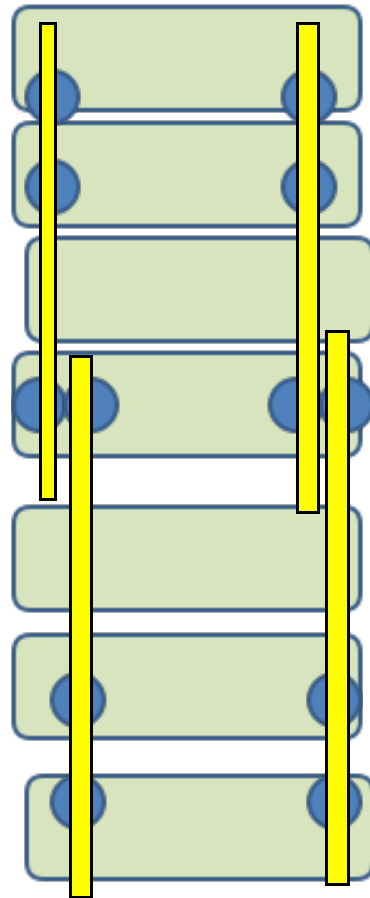


3.5mm poly axial  
screws, 4mm rods



‘domino connector’





Go in and  
distract at the  
apex





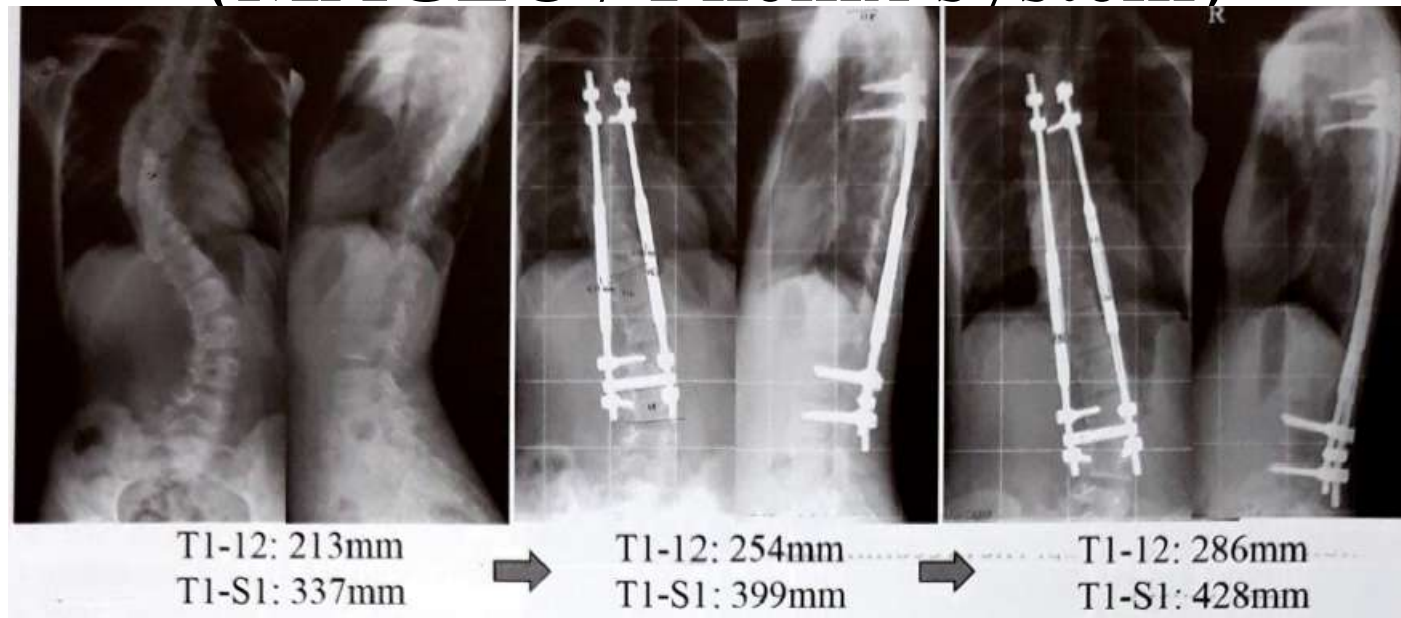
- Dual rods better than single rod
- Better purchase
- Better correction
- Less failure

- Every 6 monthly distraction
- **Law of diminishing returns**

### ***Disadvantage:***

- Each time patient need to undergo anesthesia
- Implant failure
- Not a good idea in patients with kyphosis ( can be a contraindication of GR)
- Insufficient chest wall expansion

# MCGR – Magnetic Controlled GY (MAGEC / Phenix system)



- Usg guided distraction
- Use in dilemma due to metallosis, implant failure



**Fig. 37.6** (A) A single magnetically controlled growing rod depicted on a spine model. The enlarged midportion of the rod contains the magnetically controlled distraction mechanism (*red arrow*). (B) Lengthening of the magnetically controlled growing rod in the office. (A: From Cheung KM, Cheung KP, Samartzis D, et al. Magnetically controlled growing rods for severe spinal curvature in young children: A prospective case series. *Lancet* 2012;379:1967–1974, Fig. 1, p. 1968. B: Courtesy Behrooz A. Akbarnia, MD, San Diego, CA.)

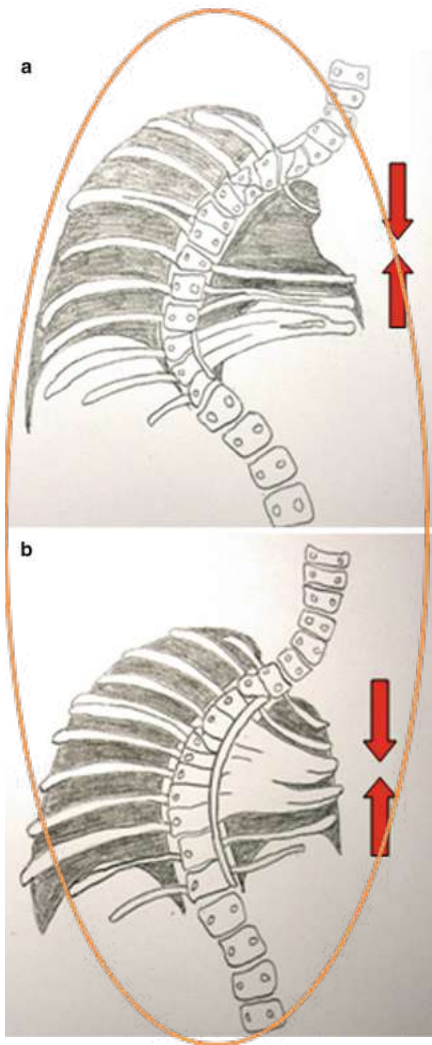


# A major miss ?

One of the associated anomaly with EOS is abnormal development of lung function.

And in all these techniques there is no solution if the lung anatomy is abnormal

THORACIC INSUFFICIENCY  
SYNDROME - A CHEST WALL  
ABNORMALITY WHICH  
INTERFERES WITH  
RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OF  
THE CHILD.



Unilateral

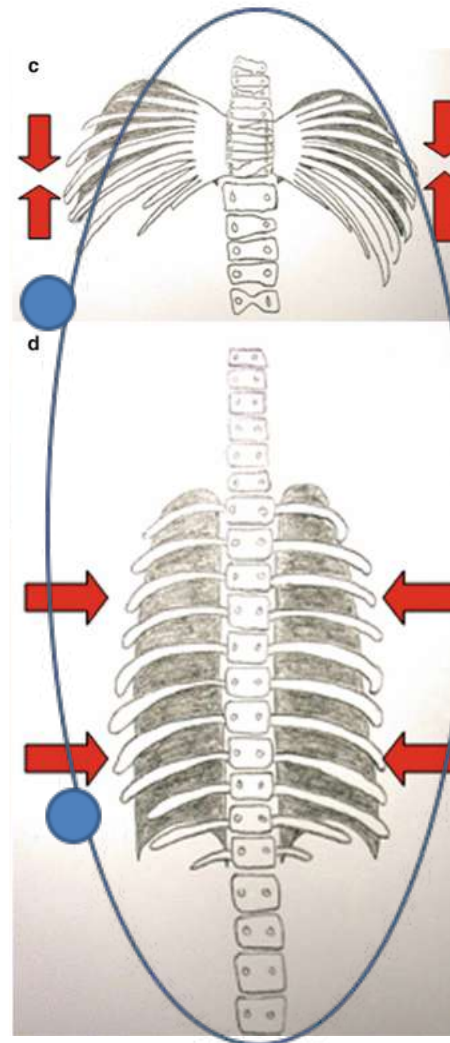
Type 1 – Absent rib and scoliosis

Type 2 – Fused ribs and scoliosis

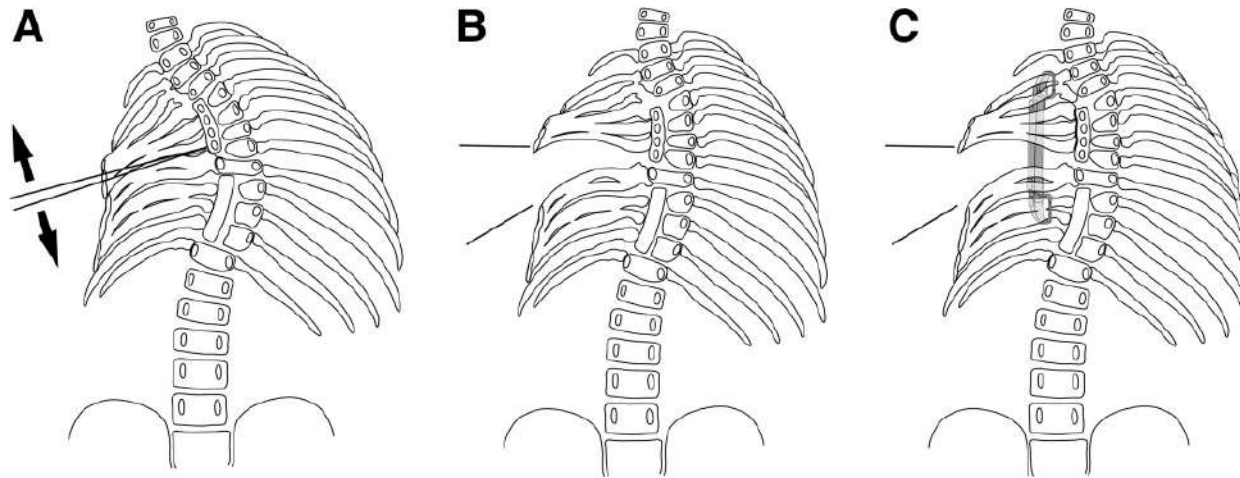
Bilateral

Type 3a – Foreshortened thorax (Jarcho Levin Syndrome)

Type 3b – Transverse shortened thorax (Jeune syndrome)



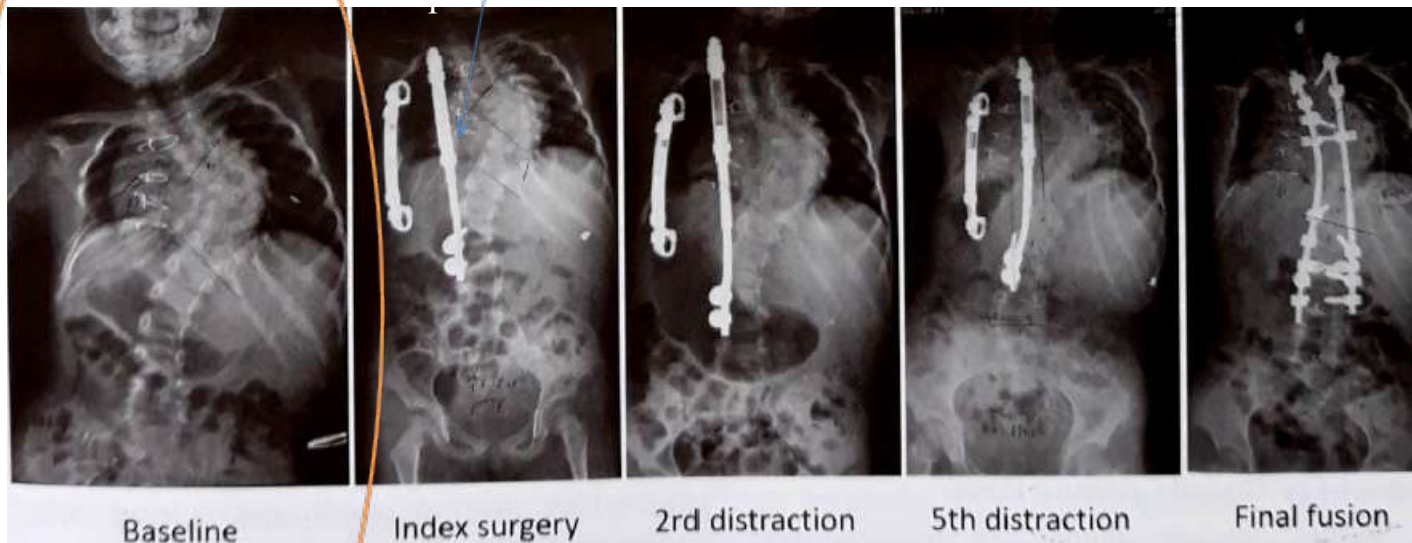
# Vertically Expandible Prosthetic titanium Rib



One  
segment  
from rib-rib

Other  
segment  
from rib –  
spine or rib

# VEPTR

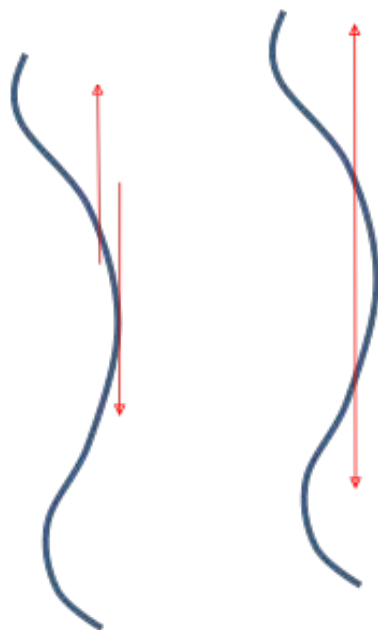


- Higher complication rates
- Implant failure
- Complications like lung injury

Not an  
implant of  
choice of  
routine use



# Flat back syndrome



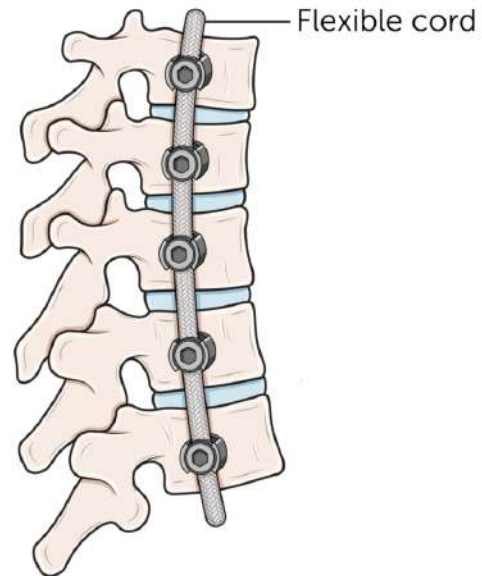
# Compression Based system

- VBS / VBT
- Anterior procedures
- <13 girls/ <15 boys
- Risser 0 or 1 or 1 year of growth remaining
- Thoracic curve <35 and lumbar curve <45
- Saggital thoracic curve <40
- Skeletally immature patients

# VBT



## Vertebral Body Tethering



Vertebral body tethering allows for the spine to remain flexible and able to grow

© 2021 Boston Children's Hospital

# VBS





# Growth Guided Technique

- Luque Trolley – rods and sublaminar wires (fusion, implant failure, curve progression)
- Shella Technique( McCarthy)

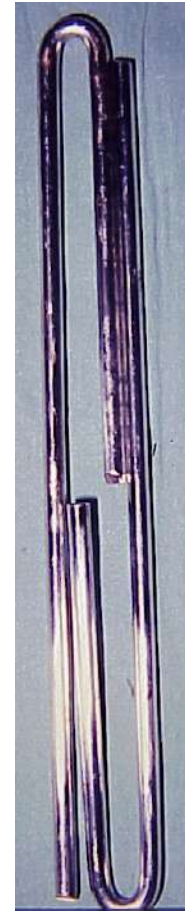
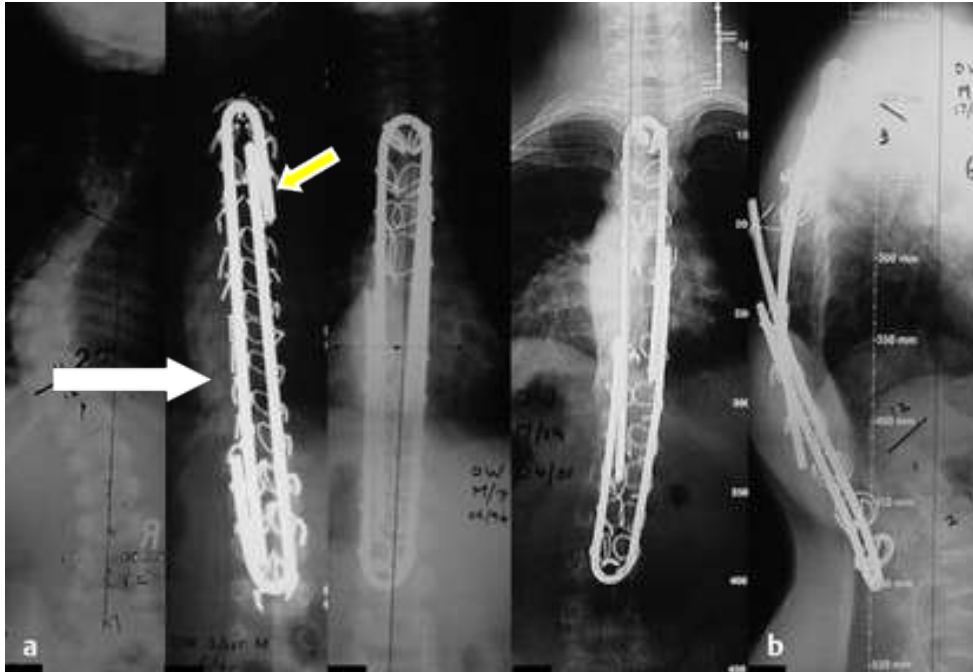
Dual growth rods

Apical fusion

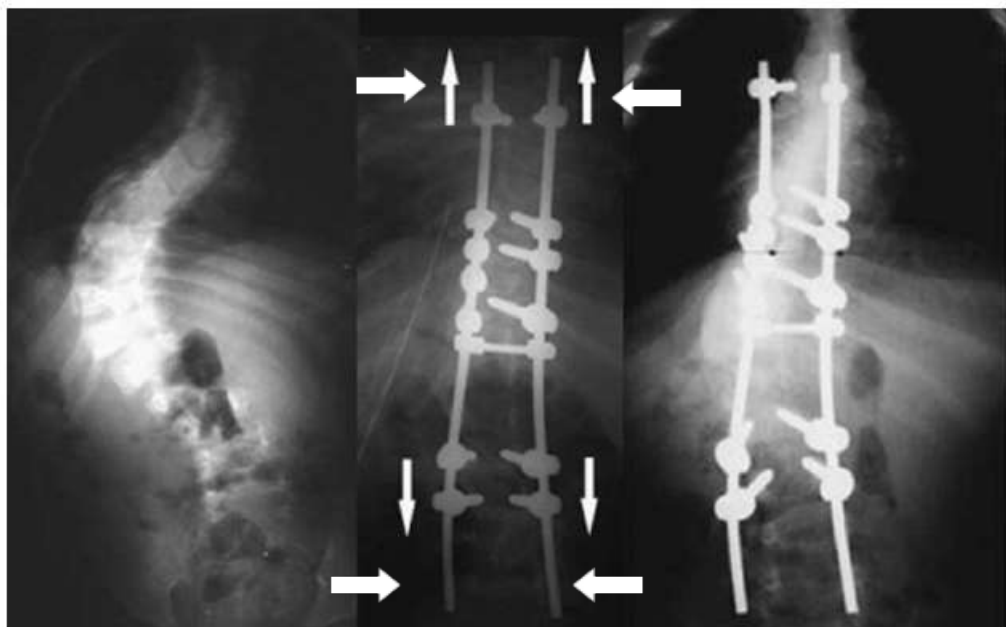
And ends kept loose for rods to grow.

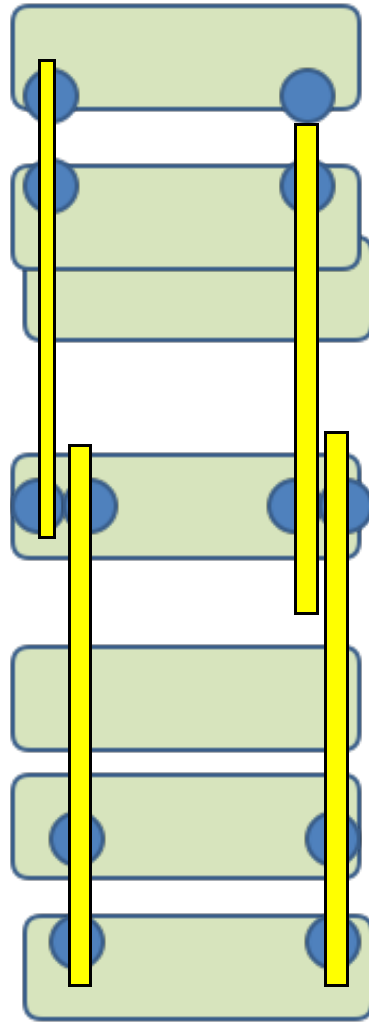
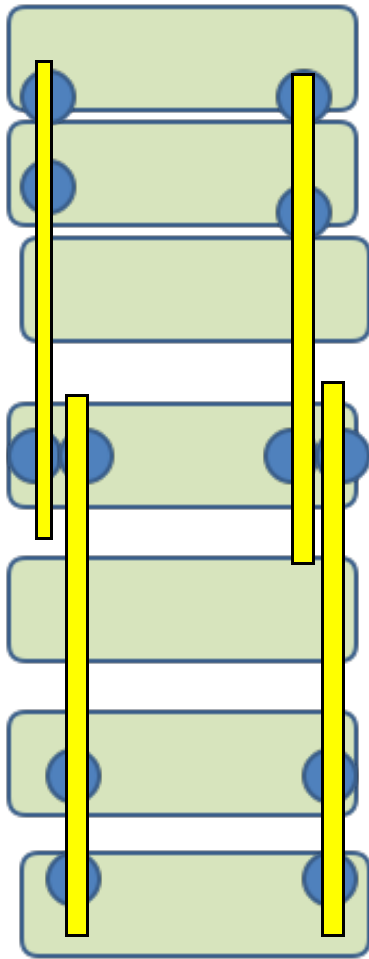
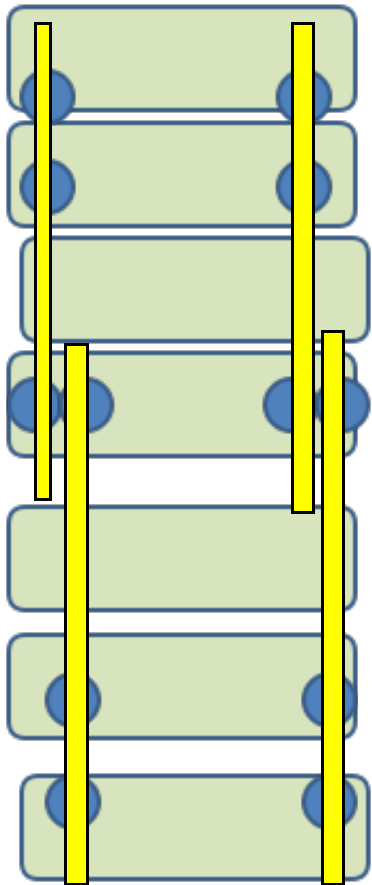
- Convex growth rod arrest

# Luque trolley



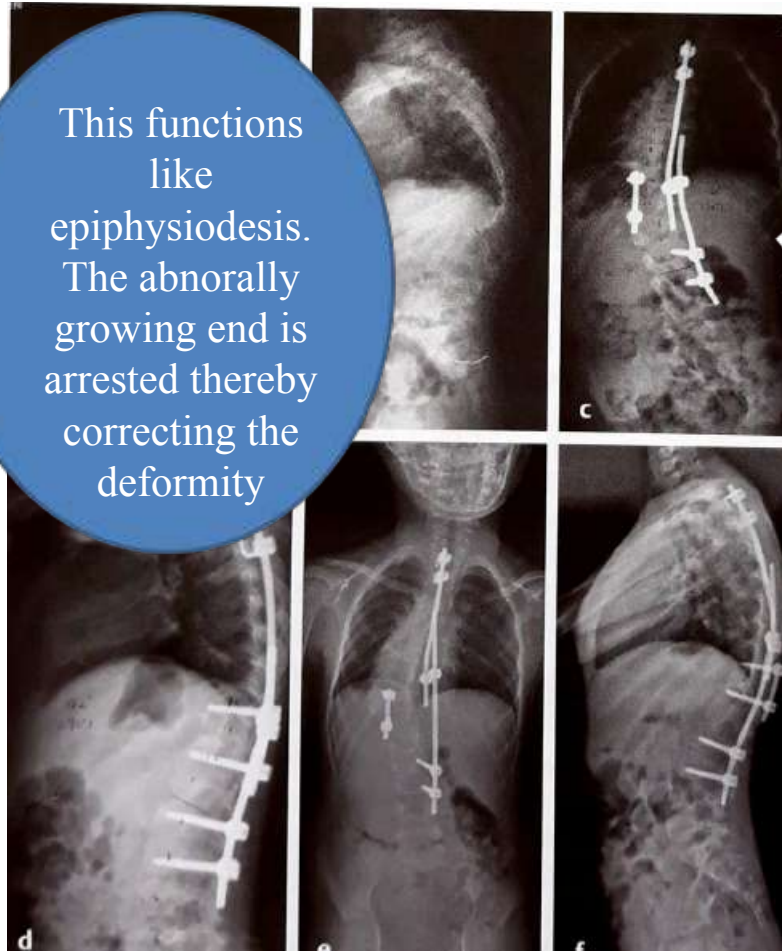
# Shella Technique





# Convex Growth rod arrest

This functions like epiphysiodesis. The abnormally growing end is arrested thereby correcting the deformity





# Final Fusion

- If deformity remains during the treatment of child undergoing treatment
- Preferably after 10 yrs
- After adequate pulmonary function has been achieved
- If too frequent complications with growth guided system
- Patient not fit for repeated anesthesia

# Always be careful

- Almost always associated with complications
- Law of diminishing returns
- Mc is skin related complication
- Implant failures, backout
- Curve progression – careful in syndromic curves – behave differently – Marfan, EDS, NF



