



Final Event, NWE6  
Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021



# Planning and Assessment Techniques for Spine Surgeries

## ESR4: Jennifer Fayad



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 766012



# SPINNER Training Network:

- Started in November 2018
  - 4 months at UNIBO
  - 19 months at NCSD
  - Return to UNIBO to complete PhD
- Training events
- Yearly meetings
- Bi-monthly ESR meetings



NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR SPINAL DISORDERS



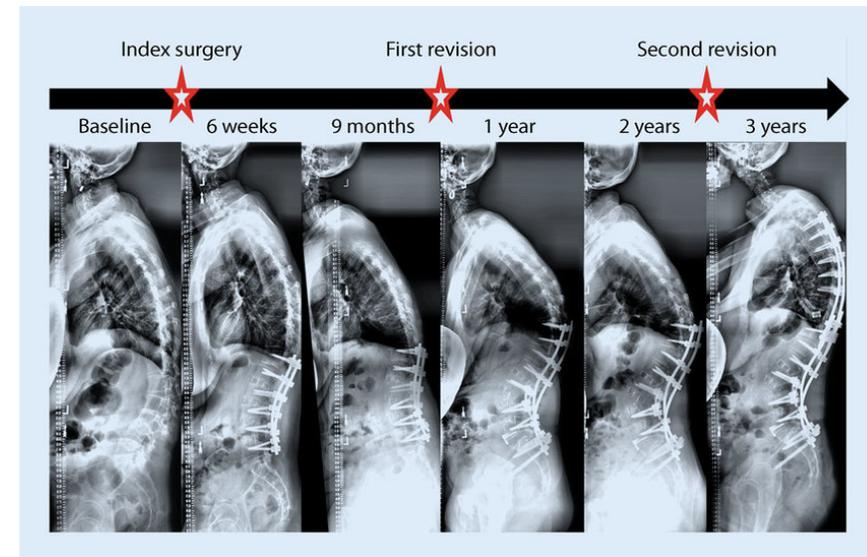


## Background:

- Low back pain and Adult Spine deformity are increasing with age
- Surgical interventions needed in some cases
- **Posterior Spine Fusion (PSF)**
  - Fusion of 2+ vertebrae to
    - Manage pain
    - Correct Deformities
    - Restore Spine Balance



- **Proximal junctional kyphosis (PJK)** is an abnormal kyphotic deformity
- Prevalence rates between **5%-40%** in adult spine deformity patients
- Develops within **3 months** of surgery in 80% of affected patients

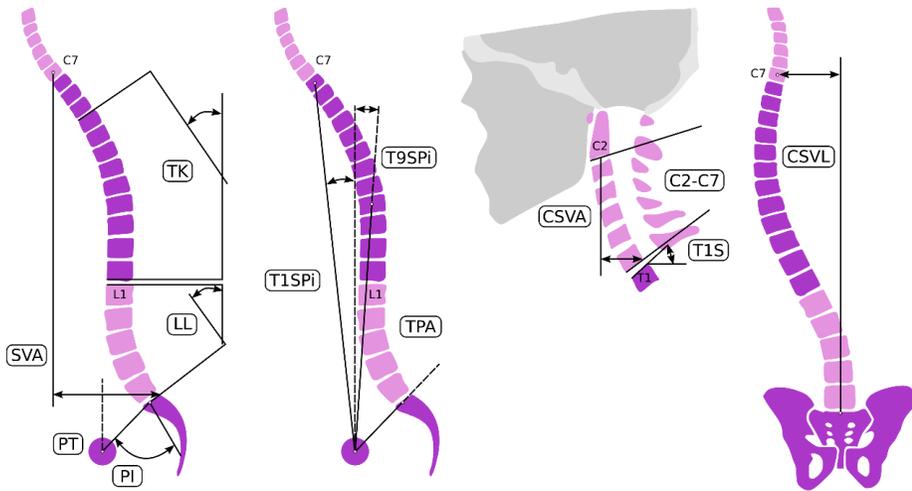




# Background:

## Current Preoperative Planning:

- Vital to minimize surgical complications
- Imaging techniques are the methods of choice



X-rays to measure Spino-pelvic parameters

- Measure degrees of correction needed



CT Scans

- Evaluate bone density
- Screw placement location



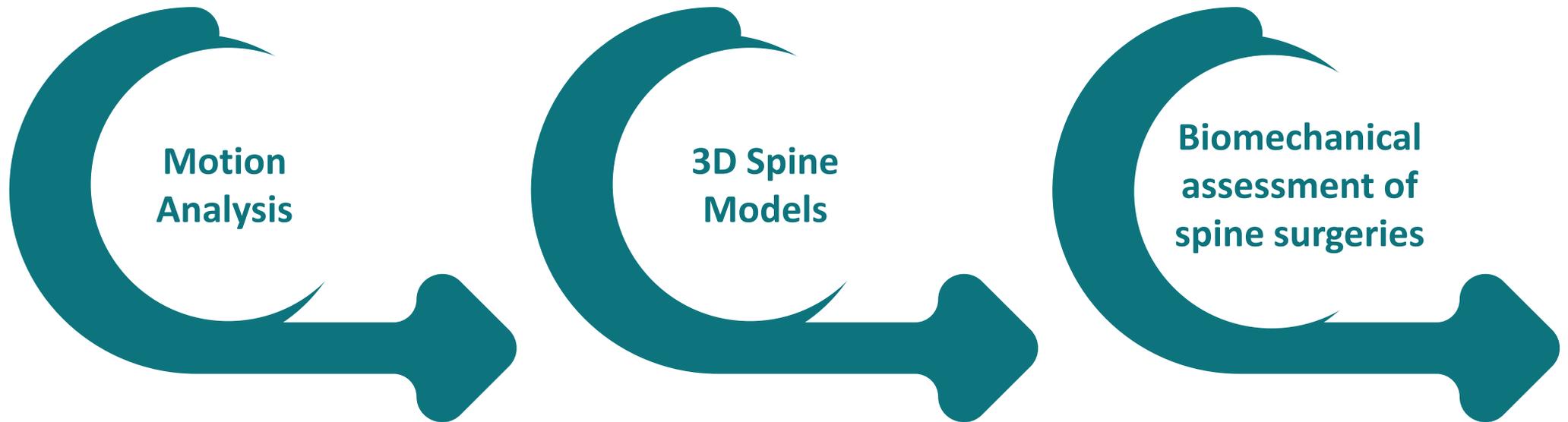
MRI Scans

- Visualize intervertebral disc
  - Nerve impingements



## Project Objectives and Aims:

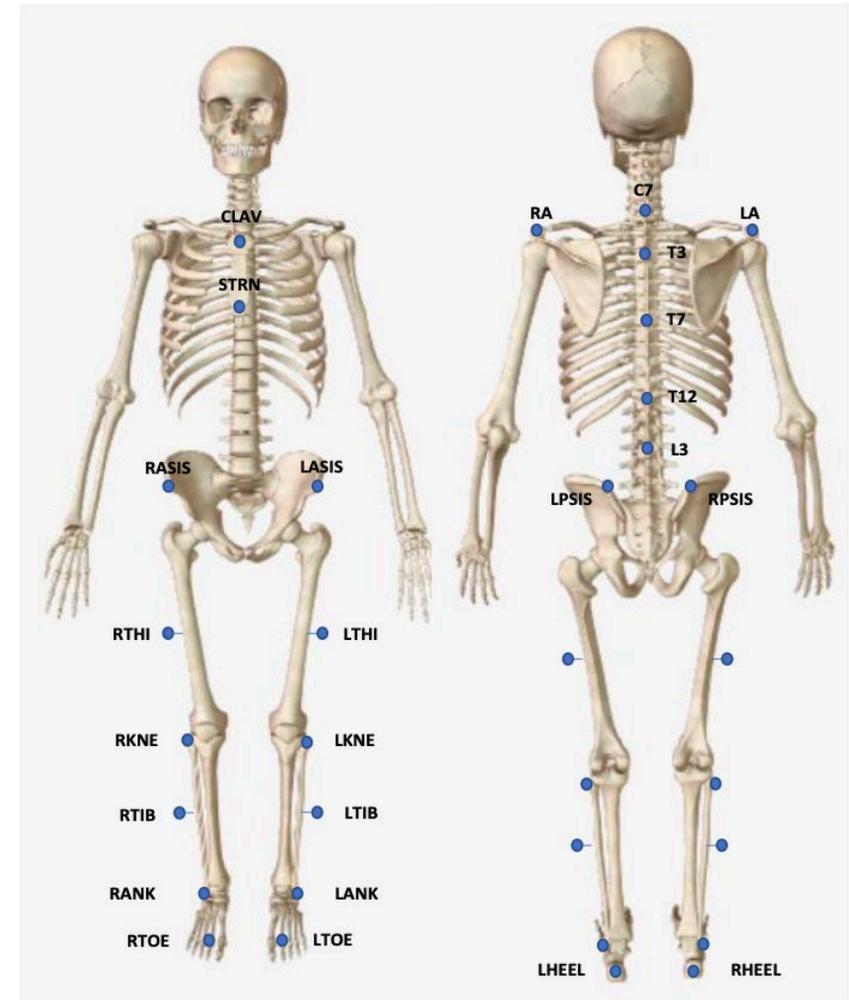
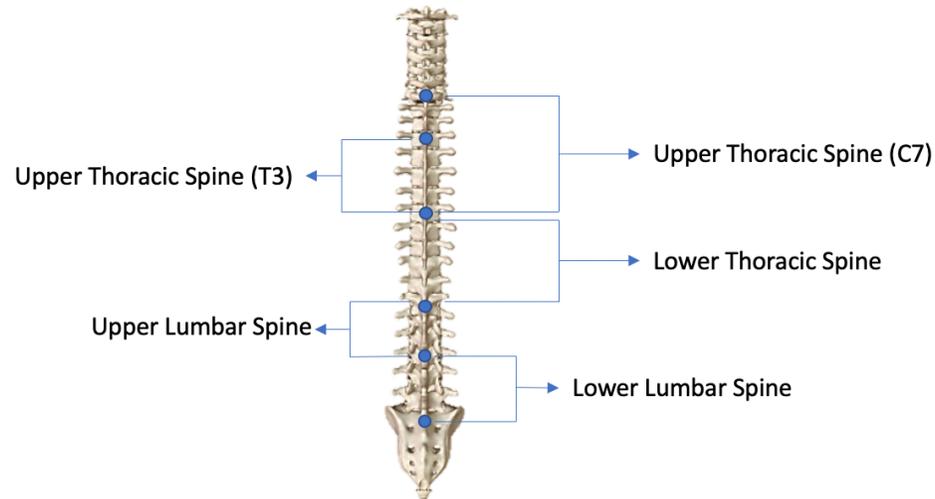
Introduce and investigate future techniques for surgical planning of PSF surgeries





## Marker Setup:

- Motion analysis protocol and marker setup developed:
  - Marker setup includes 25 markers
  - Markers attached on C7, T3, T7, T12 and L3
  - Lower Limbs markers followed the Davies protocol
- Spine Divided into 4 Segments
- Two marker placement techniques and 3 capture systems



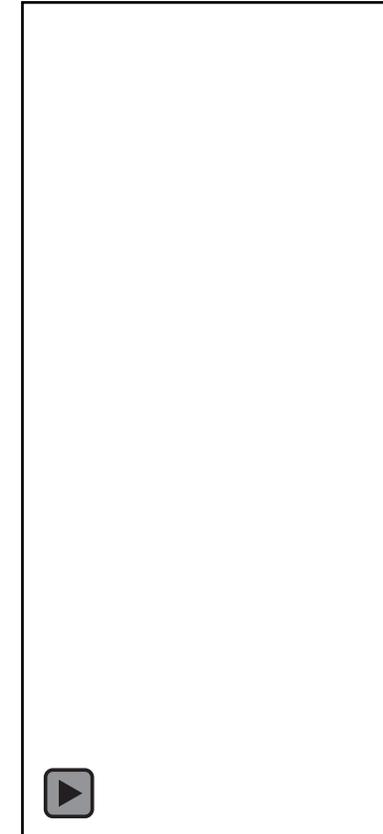
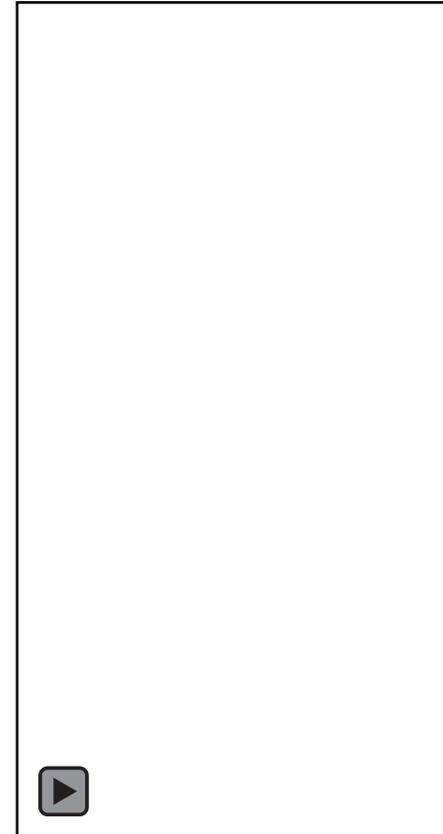


## Participants:

- 22 healthy participants recruited (10F, 12M; age: 26.2±4; height: 1.74±0.08m; weight: 72.1±15kg)
- 30 patients recruited, 10 in the long fusion cohort, 20 in the short fusion cohort

	Long Fusion Mean (SD)	Short Fusion Mean (SD)
<b>Gender</b>	7F, 3M	8F, 12M
<b>Age (years)</b>	54.9 (10.7)	46.4 (11.9)
<b>Height (m)</b>	1.68 (0.10)	1.72 (0.08)
<b>Weight (kg)</b>	85.9 (23.9)	84.9 (16.5)
<b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	30 (6.48)	28.4 (3.9)

- **Tasks conducted:**
  - Full Flexion
  - Thoracic Flexion
  - Lateral Bending
  - Sit to stand transitions
  - Object pickup
  - Walking trials



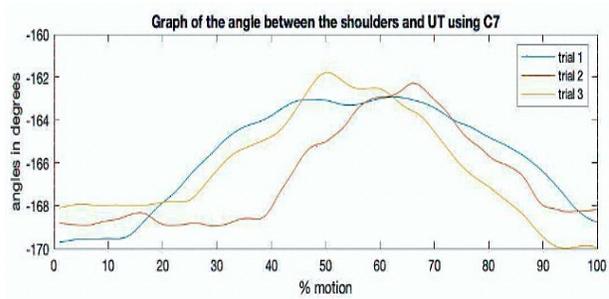
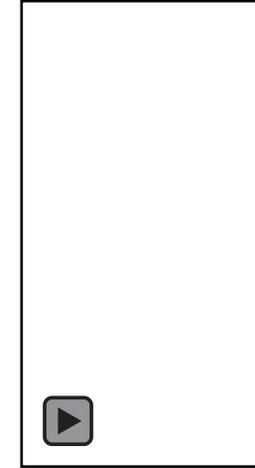


# Data Processing:

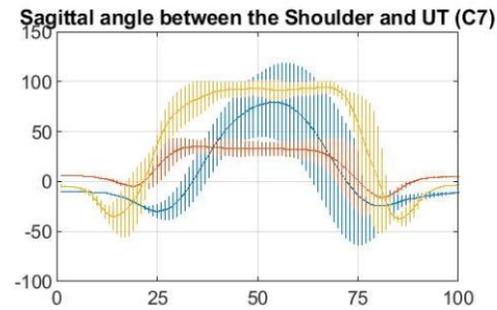
- The kinematic data collected was processed using VICON NEXUS and MATLAB
- The intersegmental and segment-pelvis angles were calculated
- Motion of the C7 marker was used to identify the start and end of the motion

## Synchronisation of Motion:

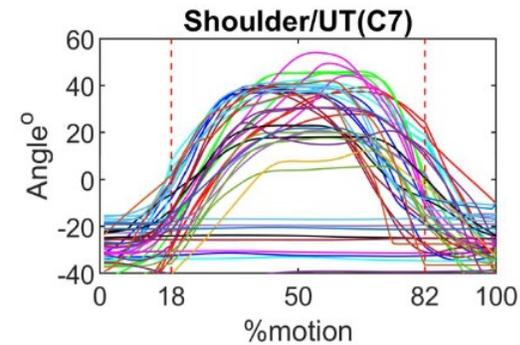
- Identification of key events depending on the slope of the joint angle
- Synchronisation is not operator dependent



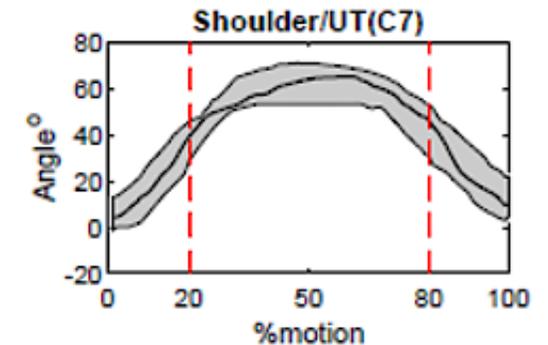
Intersegmental angle for 3 trials



Intersegmental angle of 3 participants



Synchronised angles all participants



Synchronised motion band all participants



## Spine Parameters:

### Following Synchronisation of all the tasks:

1. Differences between marker application methods and motion capture system
  - ROM of each segment
  - Percent Contribution of segments
    - Shoulder/Pelvis chosen as responsible for 100% motion
  - Timing of motion peak
  - Timing of key events
2. Characterize the motion of the spine
  - Motion Bands of intersegmental angle and segment-pelvis angle
    - Median, 25-75<sup>th</sup> and 10-90<sup>th</sup> percentiles reported as bands of motion



## Findings:

- The current protocol provided data on
  - Segmental Range of Motion
  - Coordination between segments
  - Key event timings
- Marker misplacement only affected certain tasks and segment-pelvis angles
- Motion Capture system had no effect on ROM and key event timings

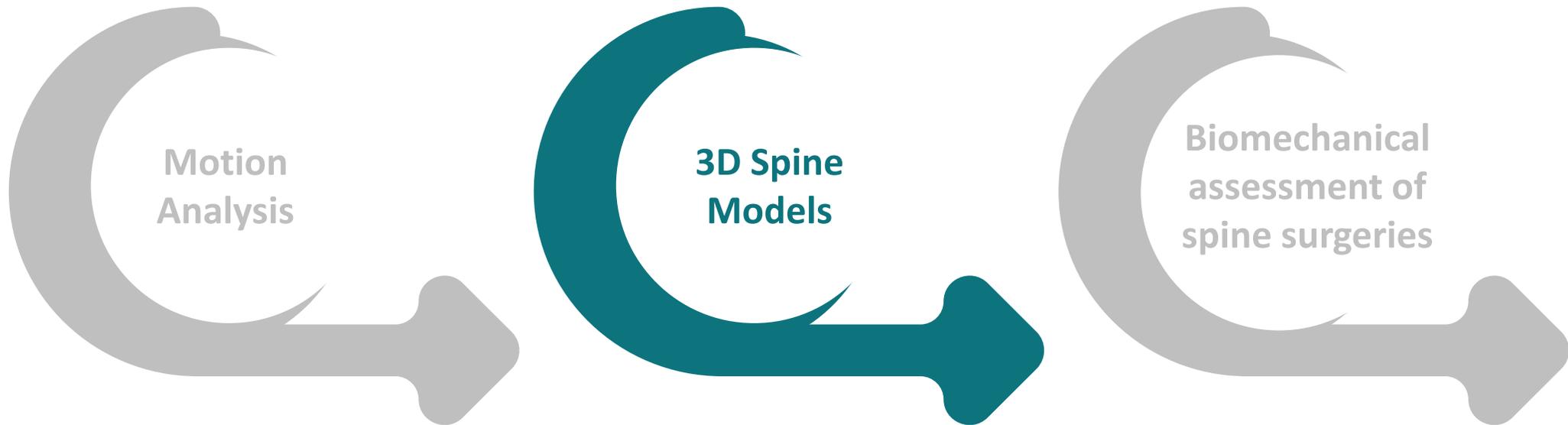
### Patient Motion Analysis:

- ROM lower in patients when compared to healthy participants
- Key events were achieved slower
- Patient data would need to be compared individually to the reference to find fundamental differences in the motion before and after the surgery



## Project Objectives and Aims:

Introduce and investigate future techniques for surgical planning of PSF surgeries





# 3D Anatomical Models for Preoperative Planning

## Case Presentation

- 71 year old female patient
  - Severe low back pain (VAS=9)
  - Fatigue in lower limbs
  - Disability (ODI=80%)
  - Very poor quality of life
- Seven spine surgeries over 39 year period

## POSTOP FLAT BACK DEFORMITY

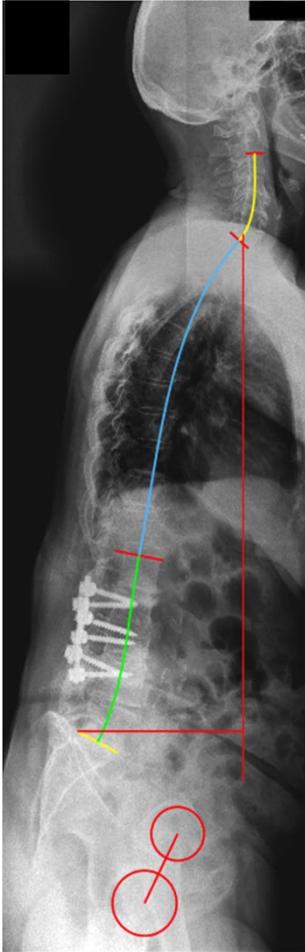


**SURGICAL SOLUTION:** alignment correction with spinal osteotomy and fusion





# Spinopelvic Alignment and Global Balance



Ideal LL (ILL) using Le Huec's Formula:

$$LL = 0.54 * PI + 27.6^\circ$$

↓  
 $ILL = 57^\circ$

↓  
Adjust to patient Age 65-74

Avoid Significant Disability (ODI < 40%)

Aim for Minimal Disability (ODI < 20%)

↓  
 $SVA = 50-90\text{mm}$

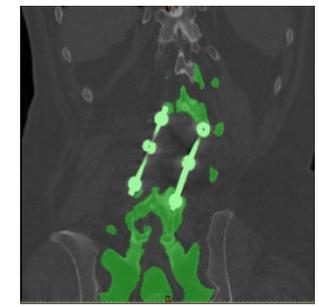
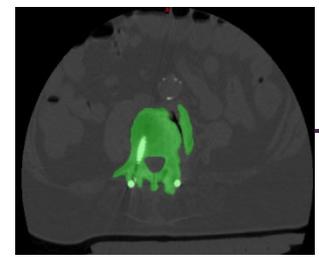
$$PI-LL = 6^\circ-18^\circ$$

$$PT = 23^\circ-25^\circ$$

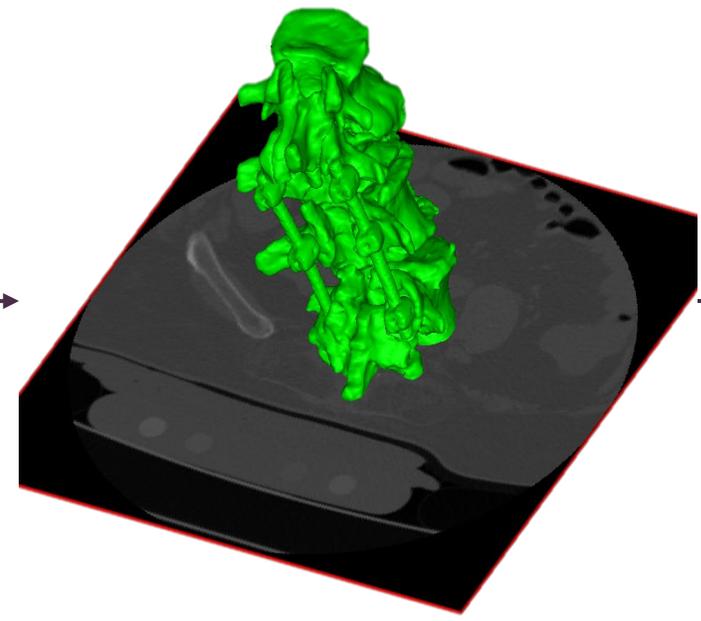
↓  
**New ILL = 37°-49°**



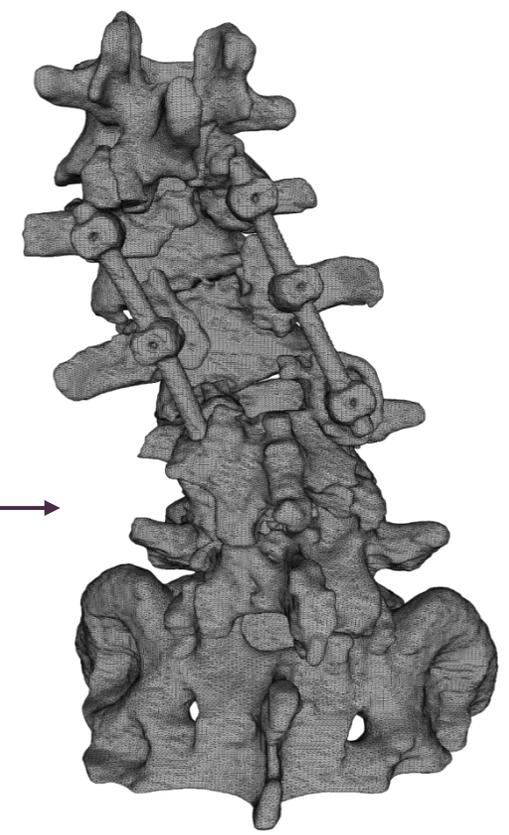
# Virtual and 3D printed Model



CT Scan



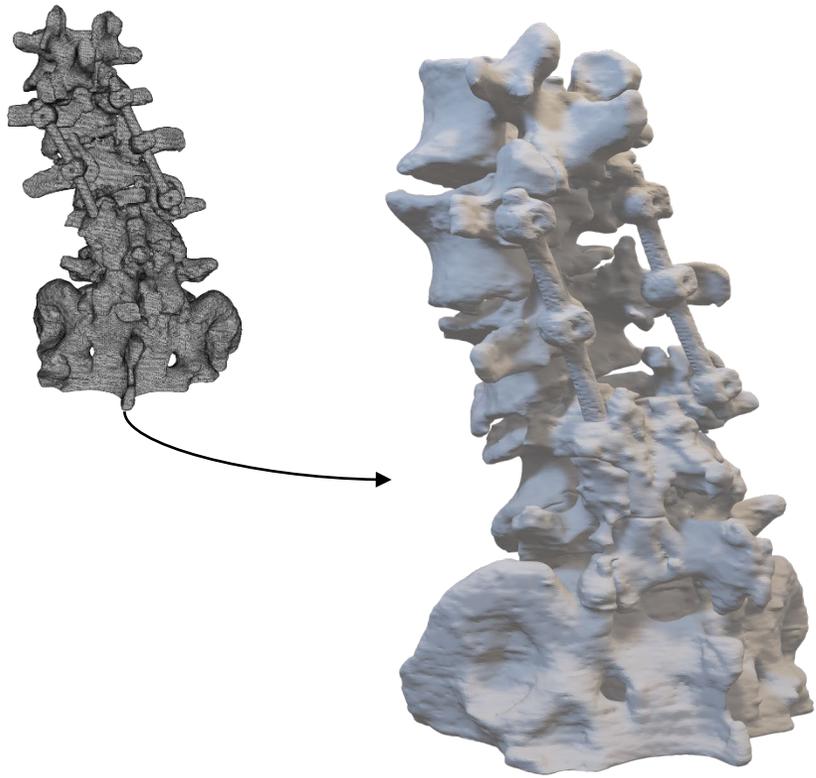
Segmented 3D Mask



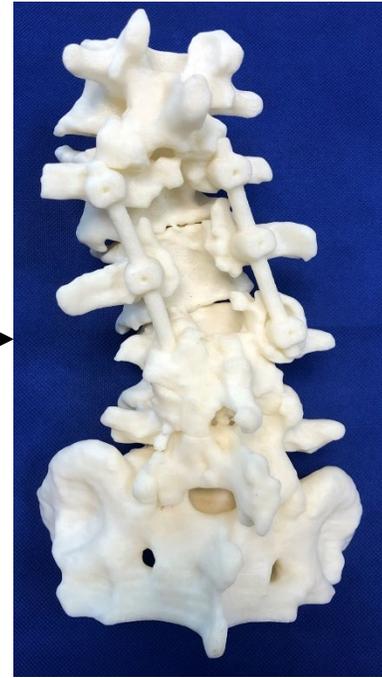
Virtual 3D Model



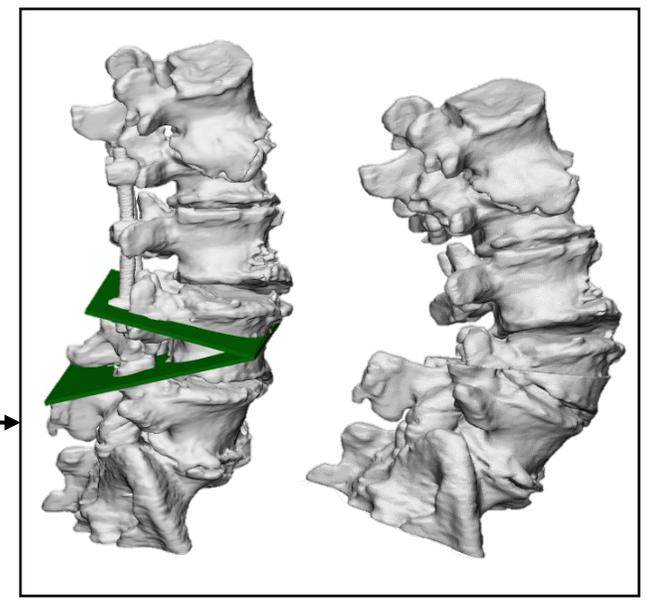
# Virtual and 3D printed Model



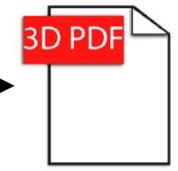
Virtual 3D Model



Printed 3D Model

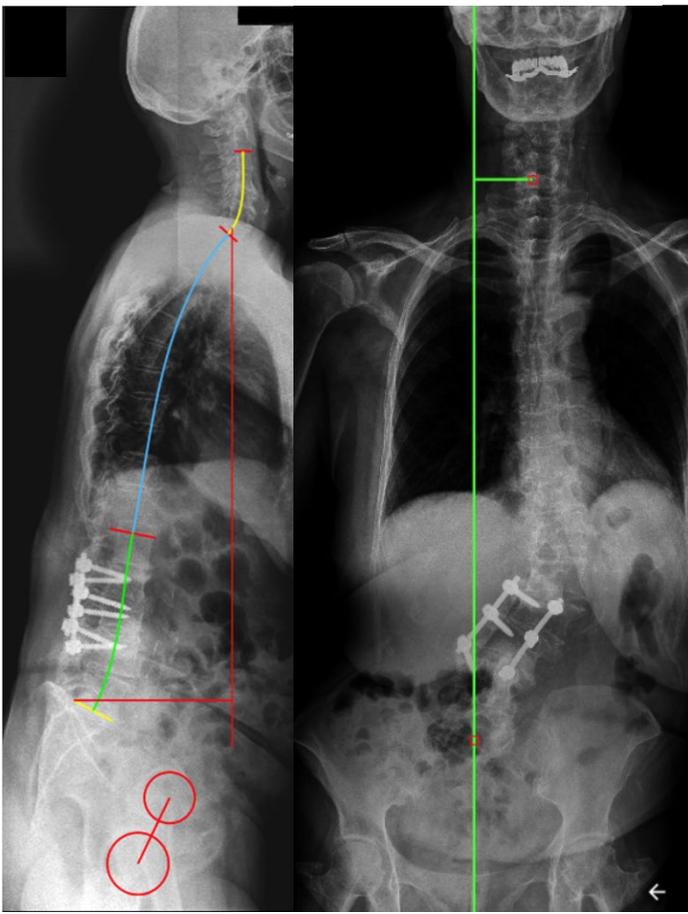


Virtual Osteotomy

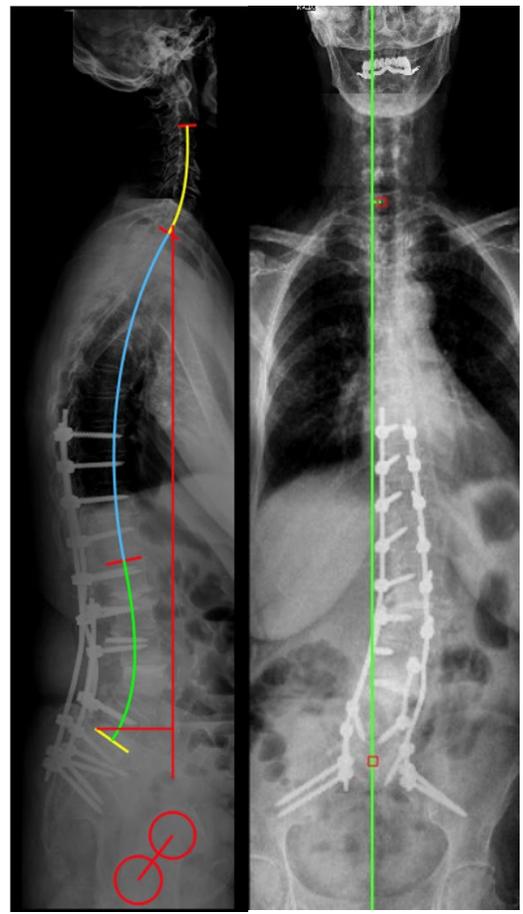




# Results:



Pre-Op



Post-Op

Parameter	Pre-Op	Post-Op
Pelvic Incidence (°)	55	55
Pelvic Tilt (°)	27	21
Sacral Slope (°)	28	34
Lumbar Lordosis (°)	17	47
PI-LL (°)	38	8
Thoracic Kyphosis(°)	16	30
SVA (mm)	156	82
C7 to CSVL (mm)	48	5
GAP Score	8	3
ODI (%)	80	20
VAS	9	3



## Findings:

### Patient specific 3D printed models:

- Increase understanding of the anatomy through haptic perception
- 3D printing for preoperative planning associated with
  - Increased instrumentation accuracy
  - Favourable surgical outcomes
  - Reduced surgical time

### **Complicated Postoperative Flat Back Deformity Correction With the Aid of Virtual and 3D Printed Anatomical Models: Case Report**



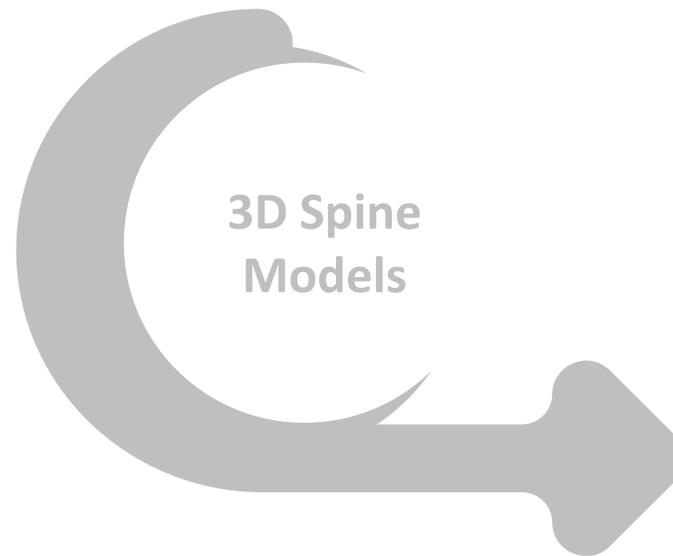
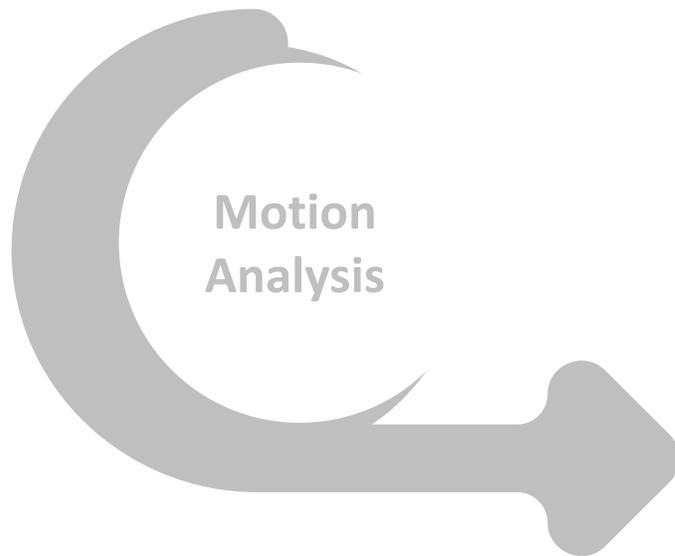
*Jennifer Fayad, Mate Turbucz, Benjamin Hajnal, Ferenc Bereczki, Marton Bartos, Andras Bank, Aron Lazary, and Peter Endre Eltes*

*Frontiers in Surgery, Volume 8, May 2021, Pages 1-7*



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Introduce and investigate future techniques for surgical planning of PSF surgeries

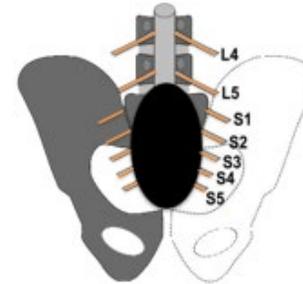
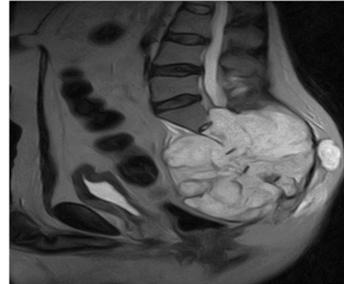




# Biomechanical assessment of Closed Loop technique

## Case Presentation

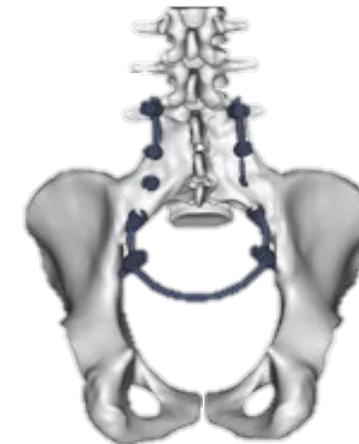
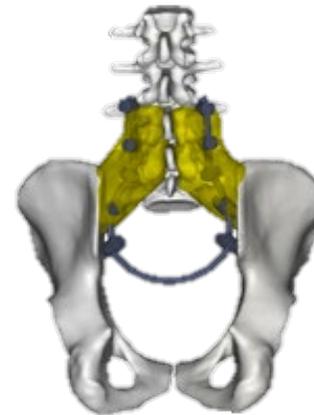
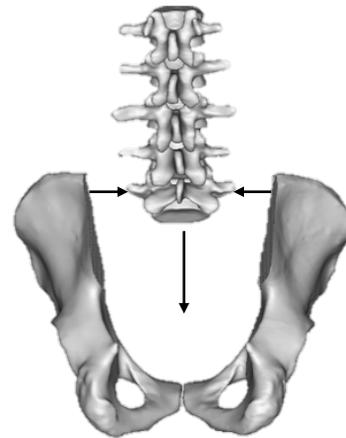
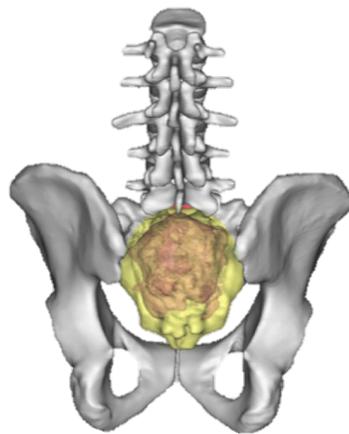
- 42-year-old male
- Sacral Chordoma Tumour
- All nerve roots below L5 lost



## Biomechanical Assessment:

- 12 CT scans over 6-year follow up period
  - Tracking implant deformation
  - Assessing bony fusion at surgical site
- Gait Analysis 1 year Postop

## Surgical Technique



Chordoma

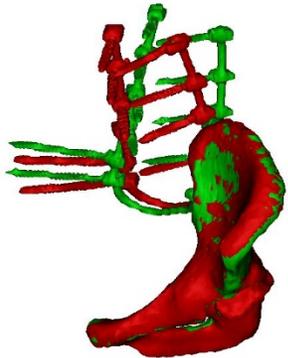
Sacrectomy

Closed  
Loop

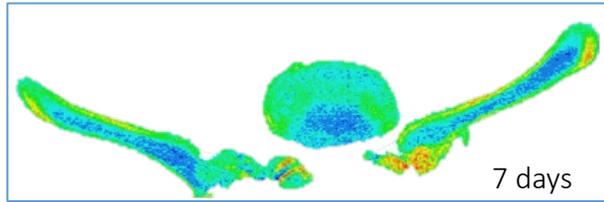
Bony  
Fusion



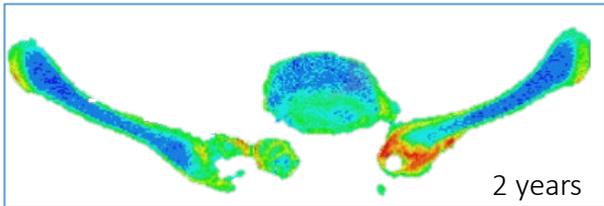
# Results:



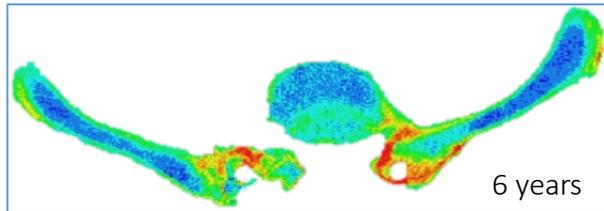
Implant Deformation



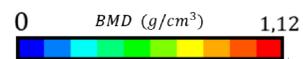
7 days



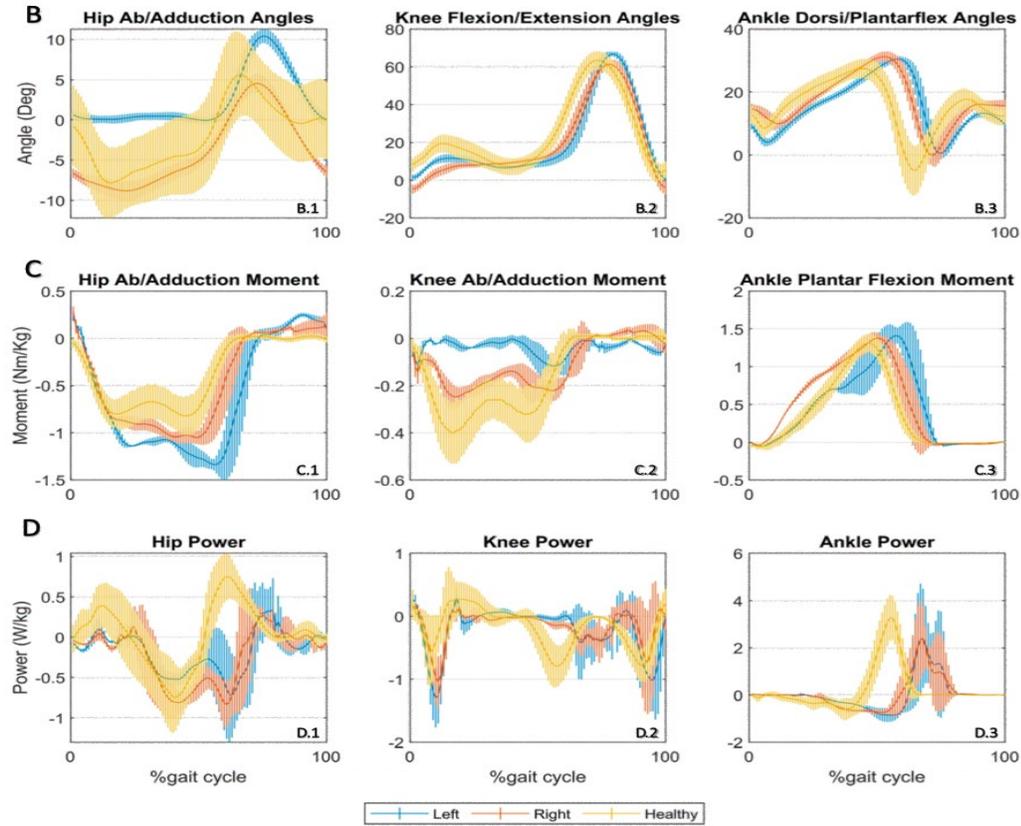
2 years



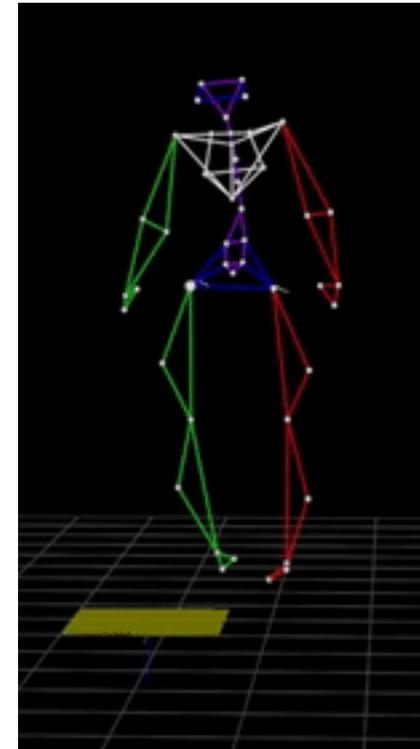
6 years



Bony Fusion



Gait Analysis





## Findings:

- Bony fusion achieved within 2 years after the surgery
- Reconstruction technique provided excellent locomotor outcomes after the Sacrectomy
- Forward bending tendency of the construct detected from implant deformation and gait analysis
- The measurement method can be used for
  - Validation of complex patient specific FE models
  - Individualized preoperative surgical planning



### **A novel three-dimensional computational method to assess rod contour deformation and to map bony fusion in a lumbopelvic reconstruction after en-bloc sacrectomy**

 Peter Endre Eltes,  Mate Turbucz,  Jennifer Fayad,  Ferenc Bereczki,  György Szőke,  Tamás Terebessy,  
 Damien Lacroix,  Peter Pal Varga and  Aron Lazary

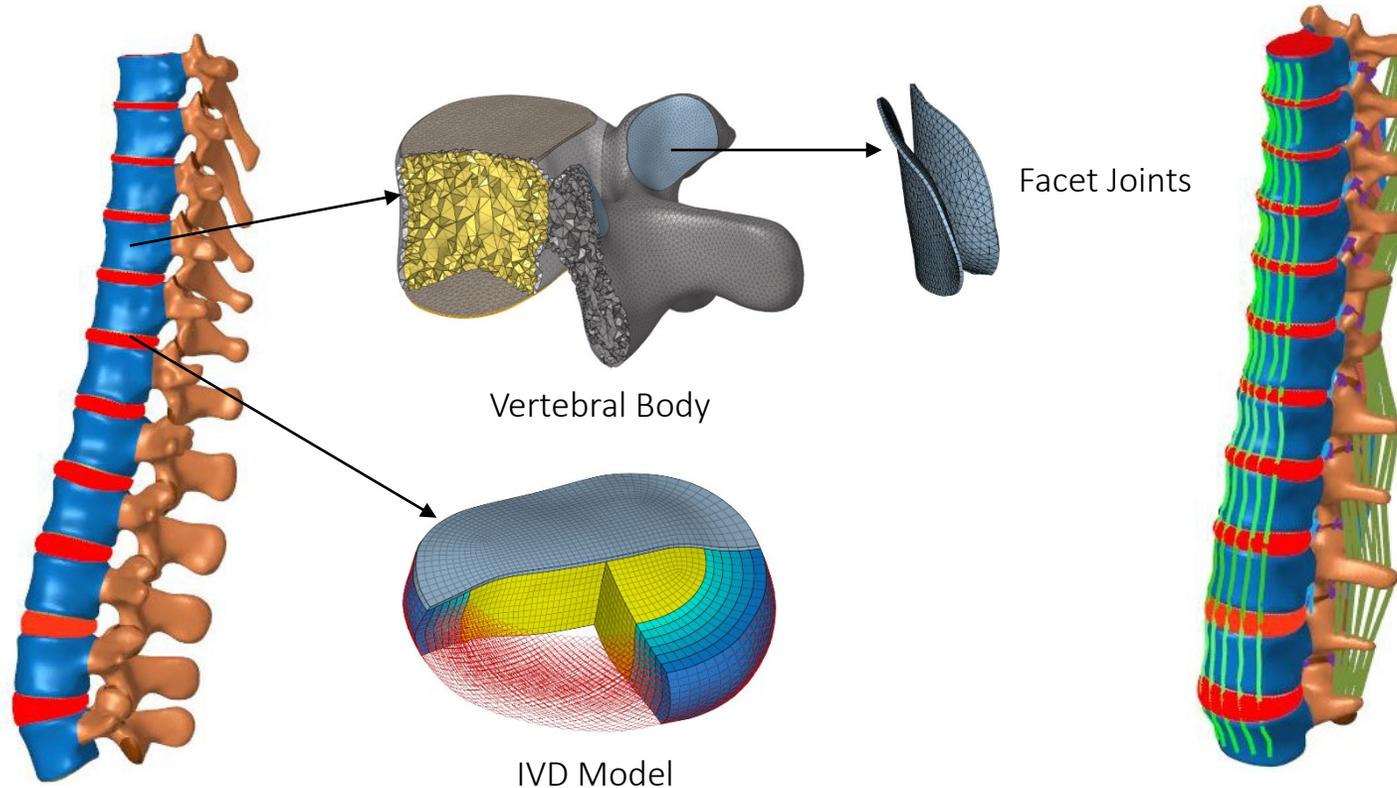


## Effect of transitional rods on the onset of PJK:

- PJK → Biomechanical failure due to the change in rigidity
  - Metal rods exhibit high stiffness

The aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of using multiple metal rods on an instrumented FE spine construct

T7-L5 Model



ALL: Anterior Longitudinal Ligament  
PLL: Posterior Longitudinal Ligament  
ITL: Intratransverse Ligament  
ISL: Intraspinous Ligament  
SSL: Supraspinous Ligament  
FL: Ligamentum Flavium  
CL: Capsular Ligament



## Effect of transitional rods on the onset of PJK:

- Six models to be compared on:
  - Overall range of motion
  - Intervertebral ROM
  - Intradiscal Pressure
  - Pedicle Screw Forces
  - Ligament Forces
  - Stress at UIV+1



## Dissemination:

### Spinner Training events:

- Spine Surgery and workshop, Aesculap AG
- Biomaterials and Scientific Writing, University of Bologna
- Public Engagement and Media Training, University of Sheffield
- Numerical and Experimental repair strategies, Ansys and Adagos
- Cell Culture Training, University of Sheffield

### Conferences and Workshops:

- Spine workshop 2019
- Modelathon 2020
- ESB 2021
- Global Spine 2021
- BioMedEng 2021
- SICOT 2021

### Publications:

- 1 first author, 1 co-author paper
- 1 manuscript in preparation





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# Thank you



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



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