

UNILATERAL SPONDYLOLYSIS

AN OBSERVATION MADE ON POSTERO-ANTERIOR RADIOGRAPHS TAKEN IN THE ERECT POSITION

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Some years ago I observed a marked narrowing of the space between the transverse process of L.5 and the superior margin of the ilium, and quite frequently even

overlap of the aforesaid transverse process and the ilium and a widening of the space between the transverse processes of L.4 and L.5, on the side of a unilateral gap in the

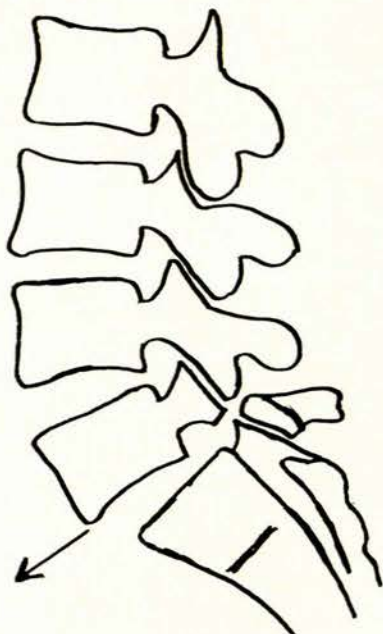


Fig. 1. See text.

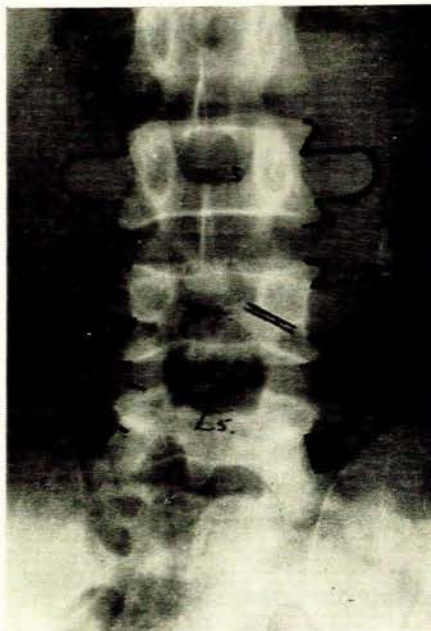


Fig. 2. See text.

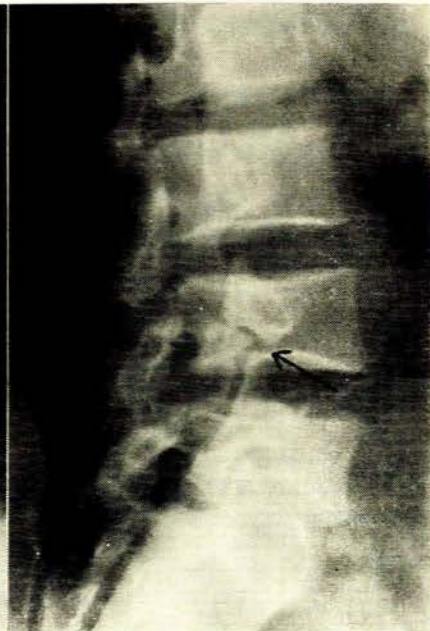


Fig. 3. See text.

pars interarticularis of L.5, as compared with the opposite side.

Fig. 1 illustrates, to my mind, the explanation. When there is forward shift, there is also inferior shift; and, therefore, an erect postero-anterior view not only provides information on the extent of this shift but it also gives a fair idea of the degree of rotation of the vertebral body with consequent strain on the *opposite* paravertebral joint.

Subsequent to the above observation I found the sign

of value in the more infrequent cases of spondylolysis of L.3 and L.4.

Fig. 2 is an illustration of a left-sided spondylolysis of L.4. This demonstrates approximation of the transverse processes of L.4 and L.5, and widening of the distance between those of L.3 and L.4 on the left side as compared with the right side.

Fig. 3 is an oblique view which demonstrates the gap in the pars interarticularis of L.4.