Shilla:
Techniques, Tips, and Tricks

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Preoperative Assessment

- Flexibility films
- MRI-intrathecal
- CT- check pedicles
- Bone density
Intraoperative Safety Factors

• Ability to monitor cord function
  – SSEP and MEP
• Cell saver
• C-arm, O-arm, navigation systems
• Skilled anesthesia team
• Antibiotics, antifibrinolytics
• Skill and attention to detail in surgical team
• Dissection – subperiosteal at apex

• Fluoroscopy for growing screws (Pediguard)
Screws

• Fill the pedicle (large size screws)
  – Deep into vertebral body
  – Wires or tapes (fiberwire) may help to reinforce
Correction

- **Goal is apex to neutral**
- Provisional convex rod with in situ bending
  - Push apex towards concavity
Correction

- Cross link just below the apex to control the tendency of rods to spring back

- In children less than 5 years old, use sliding crosslink to allow growth of canal diameter
Follow-up: Persistence helps

- Implant problems happen
  - Prominence and breakage (replace both rods)

- Metallosis happens
Long-term results

- Allows spine to grow
- Keeps child out of O.R.
- Some sports allowed