# THE VERTEBRAL SPINE AND NEUROLOGICAL DISTURBANCES, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

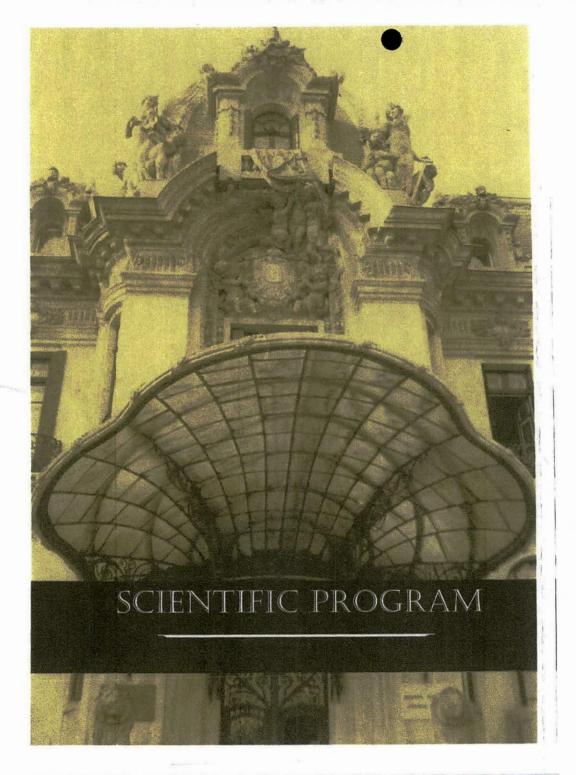
F. Gerstenbrand, Vienna,S. Golaszewski, SalzburgG. Pichler, Graz

The term vertebral spine goes back to the description period of anatomy. As a consequence of the central position in the human body, the spinal column should be called the "human axis organ". The center for the function of the axis organ is located in the brain stem using the postural and turning reflexes, based on the stimulation of the proprioceptive system. Main receptors of the proprioceptive system are the mechanoreceptors of joints and muscles of the extremities and the vertebral spine, supported by foot sole receptors. The human axis organ is the basis of static and kinetic functions of the human body. The axis organ is carrying the body, the extremities and the head. The inner organs and the thorax with the breathing system are fixed onto the axis organ. The spinal cord is located in the spinal channel of the vertebral spine.

During phylogenesis the bridge-bow-construction of quadrupeds had changed into the lattice tower system, the upright position of the human race and the following development of manhood. The filigree vertebral bones and the vulnerable discs have to carry the weight of the body and the head using the "arc function model".

The situation of modern men, "the homo sedens", with the functional overload in the non-physiological body position produces a continuous damage in all parts of the vertebral spine. In addition, psychological factors are influencing position and movements of the body too. Degenerative changes on vertebrates, discs and vertebral joints are the consequence, causing typical complaints in form of radicular syndromes, pseudoradicular symptoms and the referred pain syndrome as well as spinal cord deficits and cauda symptoms. The spondylogenic cervical myelopathy is a sequence of a vertebrostenosis in the cervical spine, often misdiagnosed, modifications of a spondylolisthesis, especially in the lumbar spine region, are a problem in diagnosis and treatment. The "whiplash injury" of the cervical spine can be followed by chronic complains based on degenerative alterations of the cervical spine.

Special neurological examination including the method of the manual therapy (neuro-orthopedics) together with X-ray examination, completed by the magnetic resonance method and an electrophysiological examination have to be used for an exact diagnosis and a special treatment program, which needs to be carefully prepared and consequently executed by specially trained physiotherapists. For the decision of a surgery intervention a careful consultation between the different specialists (neurology, orthopedics, neurosurgery) is necessary.





# Romanian Medical Academy Brain Days 3\_3/00/2010 Intercontinental Potel, Bucharest

#### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM 03.-05.09.2010

2. 以下	SATURDAY/	4 September 2010
09:00 - 09:10	Welcome Address: Laurențiu M. Po	opescu (Romania), Dafin F. Mureşanu (Romania), Florian Popa (Romania)
09:10 - 09:40	Opening Lecture Dafin F. Mureşanu (Romania)	REAPPROACHING THE CONCEPTS AND REDESIGNING THE CLINICAL TRIALS FOR BRAIN PROTECTION AND RECOVERY
Session 1 - Demen	tia (1) / Chairmon: Raul Arizaga (Argentina)	), <b>Jakub Hort</b> (Czech Republic)
09:40 - 10:00	Philip Scheltens (The Netherlands)	RETHINKING THE DESIGN OF CLINICAL TRIALS IN AD
10:00 - 10:20	Antón Álvarez (Spain)	ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: PLEIOTROPIC AND MULTIMODAL TREATMENT FOR A MULTIFACTORIAL DISORDER
10:20 - 10:40	Arnos Korczyn (Israel)	WHY HAVE WE FAILED TO FIND A CURE FOR AD?
į.	Discussion – 15 minutes	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
Session 2 – Demen	itia (II) / Chairmen: Amos Korczyn (Israel), I	Philip Scheltens (The Ketherlands)
11:30 - 11:50	Angel Cedazo-Minguez (Sweden)	APOLIPOPROTEIN E, CHOLESTEROL AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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11:50 - 12:10	Jakub Hort (Czech Republic)	HUMAN ANALOGUE OF MORRIS WATER MAZE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF ALZHEIMER DISEASE
12:10 - 12:30	Antonio Federico (Italy)	RARE NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES: SIENA EXPERIENCE IN DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, RESEARCH AND TEACHING
12:30 - 12:50	Raul Arizaga (Argentina)	COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND DEMENTIA: PATHWAYS AND BARRIERS
	Discussion – 15 minutes	

13:10 - 14:10





# Romanian Medical Academy Brain Days 3\_3/09/2010 Intercontinental Potel, Bucharest

#### SATURDAY / 4 September 2010

Session 3 — TBI / Ch	airmen: Pieter Vos (The Netherlands), Ant	ón Álvarez (Spain)
14:10 - 14:30	Pleter Vos (The Netherlands)	ARE S100B AND GFAP GOOD BIOMARKERS OF MODERATE AND SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY?
14:30 - 14:50	Franz Gerstenbrand (Austria)	THE VERTEBRAL SPINE AND NEUROLOGICAL DISTURBANCES, DIAGNOSI AND TREATMENT
14:50 - 15:10	Alexandru V. Ciurea (Romania)	EARLY NEUROPROTECTION AND RECOVERY IN SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAINJURY
	Discussion — 15 minutes	
Session 4 – Neuror	ehabilitation (I) / Chairmen: Franz Gerst	enbrand (Austria), Heinrich Binder (Austria)
15:30 - 15:50	Klaus von Wild (Germany)	HRQOL, HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE, FOLLOWING TBI IN ADULTS THE NEUROSURGEONS PERSPECTIVE.
15:50 - 16:10	Volker Hömberg (Germany)	MOTOR REHABILITATION: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM BASIC SCIENCE?
16:10 - 16:30	Tamás Z. Kincses (Hungary)	INVESTIGATION OF PLASTICITY TO DEVELOP NOVEL REHABILITATION APPROACHES
	Discussion — 15 minutes	
16:50 - 17:20	Coffee Break	
Session 5 — Neurore	ehabilitation (II) / Chairmen: Klaus von	Wild (Germany), Volker Hömberg (Germany)
17:20 - 17:40	Heinrich Binder (Austria)	CONCEPTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN NEUROREHABILITATION
17:40 18:00	Steven Laureys (Belgium) represented by Camille Chatelle	CONSCIOUSNESS IN COMA AND RELATED STATES
	Discussion – 15 minutes	



**Gala Dinner** 



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# Romanian Medical Academy Brain Days 3\_3/00/2010 Intercontinental Hotel, Bucharest

#### SUNDAY / 5 September 2010

Session 6 - CNS injury, protection and plasticity	Chairmen: Hari Shanker Sharma	(Sweden), Ovidiu Băienaru (Romania
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Hari Shanker Sharma (Sweden)	HYPERTENSION, DIABETES OR NANOPARTICLES EXPLOSURE AS DISEASE MODIFYING FACTORS EXACERBATE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF HYPERTHERMIA INDUCED BRAIN DAMAGE AND ATTENUATE NEUROPROTECTIVE EFFICACY OF THERAPEUTIC AGENTS
Ovidiu Băjenaru (Romania)	PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN
Moussa Youdim (Israel)	WHY IS NO WIN FOR ALZHEIMER'S AND PARKINSON'S SYNDROMES AND THE NEED FOR MULTIMODAL DRUGS
Discussion — 15 minutes	
	(Sweden)  Ovidiu Bäjenaru (Romania)  Moussa Youdim (Israel)

10:20 - 10:50	Coffee Break	
Session 7 — Demen	tia (III) / Chairmen: Antonio Federico (Ita	aly) <b>, Moussa Youdim</b> (Israel)
10:50 - 11:10	Stavros J. Baloyannis (Greece)	THE PHILOSOPHY OF DEMENTIA
11:10 - 11:30	Bogdan O. Popescu (Romania)	IMPACT OF THE BLOOD BRAIN BARRIER ALTERNATIONS ON NEURODEGENERATION
11:30 – 11:50	Luiza Spiru (Romania)	PRODROMAL COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT (PCI) - A KEY NOTION FOR DEMENTIA MANAGEMENT. CUTTING-EDGE INSIGHTS
	Discussion – 15 minutes	
12:15 - 12:30	Closing Remarks	Dafin F. Mureşanu (Romania), Laurențiu M. Popescu (Romania)
12:30	Lunch	(1) 中央工程设计 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)





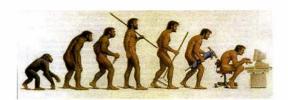
#### The Vertebral Spine and Neurological Disturbances, Diagnosis and Treatment

F. Gerstenbrand<sup>1), 2)</sup>, St. Golaszewski<sup>3)</sup>, G. Pichler<sup>4)</sup>

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Romanian Medical Academy Brain Days Bucharest, Romania September 3 - 5, 2010

#### Introduction



Evolution from "Homo erectus" to "Homo sedens"

Vertebral column – term of the description period of anatomy

Human axis organ – central organ of the human body

# Human axis organ I

- Carrying the weight of the human body
- Carrying the human head with brain and important sensory organs
- Responsible for movements of the head in all dimensions
- Fixation of shoulder girdle and the upper extremities
- Fixation of pelvis with the lower limbs
- Fixation of inner organs:
  - chest with cardiorespiratory organs
  - abdominal organs

#### Human axis organ II

Regulated by postural and turning reflexes of the midbrain-pontine centre

- Basis for all movements of the human body in the gravity field of the earth
- · Adaptation of the human body in the gravity field
- Adaption of the body position by the postural and turning reflexes due to the vestibular apparatus and receptors of cervical spine, lumbar and thoracic spine

# Development of the axis organ, the vertebral column

- •Tunicata, external skeleton
- Development of Chorda dorsalis (amphioxus)
- Development of cartilage fish
- •Development of the vertebral column

#### Development of the vertebral column

- Horizontal position of the vertebral column
  - ·bone fish, amphibians, reptiles
    - → arch bridge construction, partial developed
  - terrestrial tetrapods (mammals, aquatic mammals
    - → arch bridge construction, full developed
- Vertical position of the vertebral column
   human being
  - → lattice tower construction

## Tetrapods arch bridge construction



- Bow consists of two parts: upper belt and lower belt
   Upper belt: vertebral
  - Upper belt: vertebral arch, spine of vertebra, ligaments, back muscles
  - Lower belt: vertebral body, vertebral disc, ligaments, short and long tendons
- bow string: cranial fixed by the rips (chest), caudal fixed by abdominal muscles

Vertebral column in tetrapods

- · Fixation of the extremities for standing and locomotion
- Support in jumping
- Fixation of inner organs
- · Fixation of rips and the diaphragm for respiration
- Cervical spine
  - Carrying the head with brain, sensory organs including vestibular apparatus
  - Responsible for free movement of the head
  - Receptors for gravity (neck muscles, tendons, cervical joints)
- · Tail, used for balance (special motion receptors)
- Change of balance, continuous regulated by postural reflexes of midbrain

#### **Tetrapods**

Spine maximal integrated in the running movement, galloping dog - high speed possible





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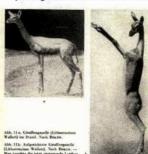
Abb. So a. Breegungslohe nine galeppierenben Hundes mit maniensker Betei gung der Wiebelskie.

# 'Great' vertebrates tetrapod and bipeds in normal gravity

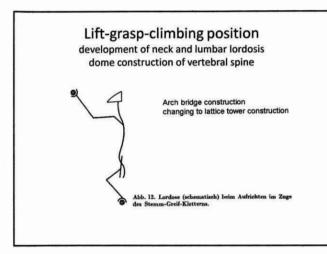


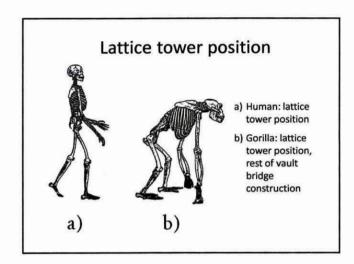
# Vertebral column change in special biotopes

passage lordosis in the lumbar region

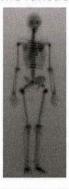


- Lithocranium Walleri
- a) Arch bridge construction
- b) Lordosis during feeding





# Homo erectus, lattice tower position dome function of the vertebrates



Cervical lordosis thoracic kyphosis thoracic-lumbar lordosis fixed kyphosis of sacrum

Design of the human vertebral column, uncompleted, Koch 1964

#### Vulnerability of the human vertebral spine

- · unfinished development of lattice tower construction
- · insufficient vertebral muscles
- · vulnerability of vertebral disc
- · high vulnerability of axis-dens-system
- overloaded system to non-physiological position and movements (industrial life)
- psychological factors (psychic tensions), dysfunction mainly of upper part,
- typical symptoms of cervical spine dysfunction, less thoracic region
- motion trauma of cervical spine (whiplash injury), sometimes including other parts of vertebral spine

## Cause of Disturbances of the Vertebral Spine

- Overloaded functions
- Malposition
- · Mal-stereotypes of movement
- Hyper mobility
- · Hypo mobility
- · Vertebral muscle dysfunction
- · Inborn abnormalities (scoliosis, pelvis)
- · Local lesions (traumatic, inflammatory)

# a) Humpback b) Normal position Quelle: H. Tilscher: Die Wirbelsäule der Frau. Verlagshaus der Ärzte, Wien, 2005 Malposition a b c d a) Normal position b) Humpback c; Humpback, lumbal hyperlordosis d) Flatback

## Malposition



- Insufficient muscles of the neck, the back and the abdominal muscles
- · Over weighted

Quelle: H. Tilscher: Die Wirbelsäule der Frau. Verlagshaus der Ärzte, Wien, 2005

## Change Between Supporting and Free Leg



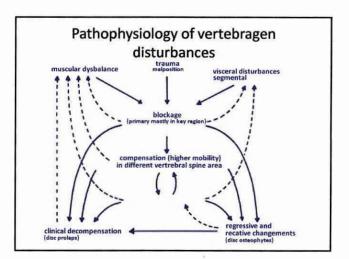
- Malposition
- Malstereotypes
- Overloading of lumbar spine, partly insufficient back muscles

Quelle: H. Tilscher: Die Wirbelsäule der Frau. Verlagshaus der Ärzte, Wien, 2005

## Malposition - Malfunction



 caused by profession (violinist)



# unspecific thalarnic nuclei specific lateral thalarnic nuclei reticular formation promatic medial lemniscus pinothalarnic tract spinothalarnic tract spinoth

## Vertebragene disturbances Neurological manifestations

- · Acute decompensation of vertebral spine
  - Lumbago attacks, stiff neck syndrome
  - Protection mechanism for local lesion
- Lesion of vertebral roots
- · Lesion of spinal cord
- Disturbances in the blood circulation of nervous structure (spinal cord, nervous roots, cauda)

### Lumbago Attack

- Severe back pain, sudden onset, (lumbar region – lower thoracic region)
- Stretched position in lower part of vertebral spine – "Improvisationshaltung"
- · Total immobilization of the body
- · Radicular symptoms in 15%
- Pseudo-radicular symptoms in 30%
- Etiology: Acute lesion, disc herniation, decompensation of spondylolisthesis lumbar spine
- · Protection mechanism for local process

#### Stiff Neck Syndrome

- · Severe neck pain, acute attack
- · Stretched-torsion position of the neck
- · Immobilization of head movement
- Pseudoradicular symptoms C2, C3, C4
- Radicular symptoms C2 C4
- Acute lesion cervical spine (disc herniation, decompensation of spondylolisthesis, etc.)
- · Protection mechanism for local process

## Radicular Syndrome

- · Pain in the dermatome
  - Dragging, drilling, most intensive
- · Sensory disturbances in the dermatome
  - Hypalgesia, analgesia
- · Paresis, atrophy in the myotome
  - Hyporeflexia, areflexia
- No vegetative disturbances

#### Pseudoradicular Syndrome

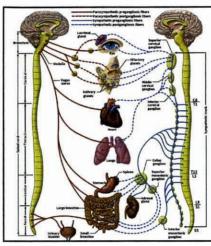
- · Pain in one or several dermatomes
  - one/both sides, blunt diffuse
- Dysesthesia, hyperalgesia in the affected dermatome
  - no sensory deficits
- No motor deficits
  - Increased muscle tonus in the myotome
  - Increased tendon reflexes possible
- Vegetative disturbances
  - Hyperhidrosis, piloerection, Kibler phenomena
- Blockage in the affected spinal movement segment

## Visceral Referred Pain Syndrome

- · Affection of inner organs
- · Affection of joints
  - in extremities
  - of vertebral spine

# Visceral Referred Pain Syndrome Affection of Inner Organs

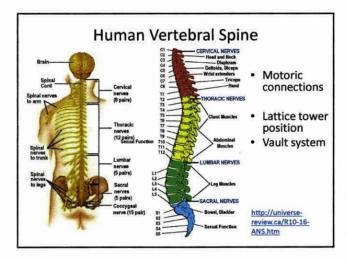
- Pain in "head zones" belonging to the affected organ
   Burning pain
- Hypalgesia/dysesthesia in the associated dermatome
   No sensory deficits
- No motoric dysfunction
  - Painful muscle spasm in the enterotome myotome
     maximum in the "MacKenzie zone"
- · Vegetative disturbances in the associated dermatome
  - Hyperhidrosis, Kibler phenomenon, piloerection
- Signs of local irritation, local pains, pressure pains
- · Functional disturbances of the damaged organ
- Protection mechanism



Scheme of pre- and postganglionar sympathicus / parasympathicus connections

#### Visceral Referred Pain Syndrome Affection of Joints in the Movement Organs Extremities, Vertebral Spine

- · Pain in the dermatome of the affected joint
- Hyperalgesia/dysesthesia in the affected dermatome
- · No sensory deficits, no paresis
  - Increased muscle tonus of the affected muscles (cramps)
  - Tendinopathy, myogelosis, tendomyosis
- · Pressure pain in the affected joint
- · Joint blockage, in movement pains
- Vegetative disturbances possible (Hyperhidrosis, Kibler phenomenon, etc.)



### Most Affected Areas of the Vertebral Spine

- 1. Cervical spine
- 2. Lumbar spine
- 3. Thoracic spine



Atlas, the titan giant
Means: "Who is carrying"

Son of Lapetos and of the okeanide Klymene

Carrying the globe

Special function of cervical spine turning movements in 3 dim.

Development of the Atlas-Axis-system

#### Three steps:

- development of 2 condyls on os occipitale (amphibias),
- development of a second level, the atlas-axis-joint, rebuilding of dens by loss of the first disc (tetrapods),
- special axis-dens-system, great autonomy, but highly vulnerable in human beings

#### Dysfunction of Cervical Spine Neurological Manifestations

- · Cervicogene headache
- · Cervical syndromes
- Vertebrobasilar insufficiency
- Cervical vertebrostenosis (spinal cord lesion)

#### **Cervical Syndromes**

- · Upper cervical syndrome
  - C2, connection to N. trigeminus
    - · C1 no posterior root
- · Middle cervical syndrome
  - C3, C4, C5
- · Lower cervical syndrome
  - C6, C7, C8, D1

#### **Upper Cervical Syndrome**

- · Headache, cervicogene type
  - Blunt diffuse pains
  - Helm feeling
  - "band around the head"
  - Face pain pseudo-trigeminal pain
- Cervicalgia
  - Neck pain
- · Vertigo (turning of the surrounding)
- Vertebrobasilar insufficiency attacks (VBI) possible
- · Migraine cervical attacks possible

#### Middle Cervical Syndrome

- Pseudoradicular symptoms C3, C4, C5
  - Pain in the affected dermatome
    - · Dysesthesia, hyperalgesia
  - No sensory deficits
  - No motoric deficits
  - Vegetative symptoms, heart sensations
    - Palpitation
    - Tachyarrhythmia
      - Suspicious heart infarct
    - Tachycardia
    - · Disturbance of diaphragm, high level position

## **Lower Cervical Syndrome**

- · Pseudoradicular symptoms C6, C7, C8, D1
- · Pain in the affected dermatome
- · Dysesthesia, hyperalgesia
- · No sensory deficits
- · No motoric deficits
- · Synonym: shoulder-arm-syndrome

#### Cervicogenic headache Symptomatology

- Pressure headache type, neck occipital to forehead, both sides, seldom one side
- · Helm-feeling, ring-shaped feeling
- Pressure feeling retro bulbar region
- · Increase of pain during coughing,
- Initiation due to external influence local cooling, trauma of cervical spine, etc.
- · Additional pain symptoms:
  - pain distribution in C2, C3, C4 with dysesthesia
  - atypical face pain
  - pseudo-trigeminal pain

## X-ray Cervical Spine

female patient, 47<sup>a</sup>
Diagnosis: cervicogenic headache



 a) Retroflexion, blockage upper part, dysbalance occipito-atlanto-axial joint



 b) Anteroflexion, blockage in upper part and lower part of cervical spine

#### Cervical MRI

Female patient, 47<sup>a</sup> Diagnosis: cervicogenic headache



Stretch position of cervical spine, mostly upper part, multisegmental disc protrusion, incipient vertebrostenosis C5/C6

# Vertebrobasilar Insufficiency (VBI) Attacks

- Symptoms
  - Headache, bilateral, neck pain (cervicalgia)
  - Vertigo (turning feeling)
  - Cerebellar disturbances (shaking feeling), possible
  - Visual disturbances (double vision)
  - Tinnitus
  - Drop-attacks (cardiac syncope)
  - Amnestic episodes
- Differential diagnosis
  - Mechanical irritation of the craniocervical region
  - Vertebrobasilar syndrome

#### Cervical Spondylogene Myelopathy

- Symptoms
  - Flaccid paresis of spreading hands
  - Atrophy of hand muscles both sides
  - Spastic paraparesis of legs
  - Dissociated sensory disturbance C6 downwards
  - Epicritic disturbances, legs, trunk, upper extremities
  - Bladder dysfunction, urge to urinate
  - Bowel dysfunction
  - Vertebrostenosis cervical spine, middle-lower part
- X-ray, cervical MRI
  - typical findings
- · Differential diagnosis
  - A. spinalis anterior syndrome

# Vertebrostenosis Changement in various head position





#### Cervical Vertebrostenosis



- MRI, cervical (T2)
- Disc protrusion C5/C6 and C6/C7
   Stretched position lower part in cervical spine

#### Cervical Vertebrostenosis



- · Myelography
- Disc protrusion C4/C5, C5/C6

#### Cervical Vertebrostenosis Cervical MRI (T2)



- Severe spondylogene cervical myelopathy, vertebrostenosis C5/C6, C6/C7
- Local lesion in the myelon C6

## Problems of the Lumbar Spine

- · Carrying the body weight
- Malposition
- Malfunction
- Malstereotypes
- Muscle malfunction
- Muscle insufficiency
- Spondylolisthesis



Disc Problems of the Lumbar Spine

#### Symptoms of Disturbances of the Lumbar Spine

- Radicular symptoms according to the local affection (affected disc herniation, etc.)
- Pseudo-radicular symptoms associated to the affected local structure (discs, spinal joints, etc.)
- Conus-Cauda symptoms, affection of lower lumbar spine L1/L2
- Cauda lesion, affection in the lower lumbar spine, downwards to L2

#### Spondylolisthesis, Vertebrostenosis of Lumbar Spine

- · Symptoms with the affected lumbar segments
  - Radicular symptoms (uni-radic., multi-radic.)
  - Cauda symptoms Conus-cauda symptoms
  - Pseudo-radicular symptoms
- · Clinical compliance
  - Claudicatio lumbalis
- · Differential diagnosis
  - Local process in the spinal channel (L2 downwards)

## Spondylolisthesis



Functional myelogram Radicular syndrome L3 both sides Increased bulging effect in reclination

Pat. H.F., female, 44ª

#### Lumbar Disc Herniation Vertebrostenosis



- Lumbar disc herniation L3/L4, L4/L5
   70° old patient
- Nervous root compression L2/L3 (arrow)
- Diagnosis:
   Claudicatio lumbalis
- •a) MRT (T1)
- b) myelography

Source: M. Mumenthaler, H. Mattle, Neurologie, Abb. 13.12

#### Thoracic Vertebral Spine Problems

- · Disc prolapse (seldom)
  - Radicular lesion
  - Spinal cord lesion
  - Pseudo-radicular symptoms
- · Disc protrusion
  - Pseudo-radicular symptoms, correlated to the affected segment
  - Visceral referred pain syndrome caused by joint lesion
- Differential diagnosis
  - Visceral referred pain syndrome, caused by the affected inner organ

# Treatment of vertebral spine processes

- Reparation of the malposition, malstereotypes, disturbed movement
- Reorganization of wrong posture of the vertebral column, the axis organ
- Reorganization of the disturbed muscles of the vertebral spine
- Tools:
  - Physiotherapy using various methods
  - Surgical treatment only the last choice
- Prophylaxis

