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Dynamic Compressive Stresses in the Disc Annulus Effect of Staple Hemiepiphysiodesis

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Spine growth modification Compression-based

Compressive stress increase

- Mechanism of growth inhibition
- Redistribution of stresses

Quantification of stresses important

- Efficacy
- Disc health

Titanium staple construct

- Growth altered consistently
 - Approved for prospective clinical trial





Develop model capable of determining

- Physiologic compressive stresses, mean and dynamic
- Stresses due to implant

What are normal annular stresses?

Do mean stresses become asymmetric?



Experimental design





Methods: Intra-operative



6 pigs

- Skeletally immature
 - 2-3 months, 30 kg
- Thoracotomy
- Sensors and protocol developed
- Stresses measured during procedures
 - Approved by IACUC

Fluoro - Sagittal view

Methods: Post-operative

- Biweekly
 - Position of instrumentation
 - Radiography
 - Baseline stresses
 - Anesthetized, ventilated
 Prone
- Daily
 - Stresses 3x / week
 - Run duration 100 s
 - Sampling frequency 670 Hz
 - PO week 1 analyzed
 - Activities categorized







Results: Intra-operative Stresses during staple insertion



Intra-op to Post-op

Anesthetized & lying

Awake & Standing



Biweekly Baseline: Anesthetized, prone



Physiologic dynamic stresses



PO Day 1 Subject 5

Stress by sensor location & PO day



Stress by location & activity

All available subjects averaged PO Day 4



Mean stress at stapled level Normalized by control level



Conclusions

- Dynamic disc compression at all locations
 - Intervertebral motion
- Highest mean stresses nearest implant
- This type of model system may be used to help define extent to which different methods of growth modification change static and dynamic compressive stresses transmitted to discs and vertebral growth plates

Thank you

