

Spondylolisthesis

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Spondylolisthesis is a forward slippage of the vertebral body engendered by a break in the continuity or elongation of the pars interarticularis and presents in 4% of the adult population. Spondylolisthesis can be classified into six types by causation (Table 37.8) or by the degree of slip (Table 37.9) . For skeletally immature patients (<18 years old) who have progressive slips in the spine, and in individuals with intractable low back or radicular pain or neurological symptoms, surgery may be indicated. For low-grade slips (Meyerding grades I and II) fusion- in-situ is the procedure of choice. If there is objective evidence of neural compression (e.g. weakness of extensor hallucis longus), a spinal decompression should be performed at the same time. For high-grade slips (Meyerding grades III or IV) (Figure 37.5), opinion is divided on whether to reduce the slip first and then fuse, or simply to fuse in situ Spondylolisthesis

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