A Biomechanical Analysis of the Clinical Stability of the Lumbar and Lumbosacral Spine

Posner I, White AA, Edwards WT, Hayes WC

1982, Spine

Eighteen Functional Spinal Units (FSU), representing three levels of human lumbar and lumbosacral spine, were tested using preload forces that corresponded to the clinical situation of a person lying supine or standing while subjected to maximum physiologic flexion or extension forces. Sagittal plane displacements were measured using linear variable differential transformers (LVDTs) and a MINC-11/03 minicomputer. Sequential transection of components in the posterior-to-anterior and anterior-to-posterior directions until failure occurred allowed measurements of the displacement sagittal plane translation and rotation of the intact and transected FSU.