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Pedicle Screw — This refers to a special type of instrumentation that is used in spinal surgery in order to solidly hold on to a vertebra. Screws are used in combination with rods to offer stability in the spine, they can be used in spinal fusions.

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Pelvis — The connection between the legs (hips) and the lower spine is through the large bone structures that grouped together are called the pelvis. The bones that make up the pelvis include the ilium, pubis, ischium and through the ilium they are attached to the sacrum. The hip joints are part of the pelvis and the lumbosacral junction refers to the connection between L5 (last lumbar vertebra) and S1 (upper most part of the sacrum).

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Pinched Nerve — This refers to common term used to describe nerve irritation and consequent pain, numbness or weakness (most frequently felt in the arm/hand or legs) due to compression of a nerve along its passage from the spinal cord to the arms or legs. The most common causes include: discherniation, spinal stenosis, foraminal stenosis

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Plumb Line — This is a term which refers to the balance, in a standing person, of the head being centered above the pelvis when seen from the front (frontal plane) and from the side (sagittal plane). In a simple way the plumb line is a string which has a weight on the end. When one holds the upper part of the string against an xray of a standing person in the middle of the cervical spine then the free end of the string (with the weight attached) should be hanging straight down and pass directly through the center of the pelvis and sacrum on the xray. When the plumbline does not fall well centered on an xray then one can measure the degree of offset, which is then called the "plumbline offset".

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Posterior Longitudinal Ligament — The spinal column is held together and stabilized by a number of structures including ligaments and the intervertebral discs. The Posterior longitudinal ligament (PLL) is a thick band of tissue that runs all the way along the spine from the skull down to the sacrum. It sits just behind the vertebral bodies (and discs) of the spinal column and provides stability and limits motion between vertebrae.

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Pseudarthrosis — A spinal fusion procedure has as a goal to obtain a solid bone bridge between two or more levels of the spine. It may take months and sometimes over a year to obtain a solid fusion. When this does not occur, and bone never completely grows across an area of intended spinal fusion, then one calls this a "non-union" or pseudarthrosis. This condition can be painful and sometimes requires revision surgery in order to obtain a solid fusion.

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Radiculopathy — This term refers to dysfunction of a nerve root. In mild cases of nerve irritation thd term radiculitis is often used. In a true radiculopathy, nerve dysfunction can range from mild weakness and abnormal reflexes to severe weakness or paralysis. Radiculopathy can develop due to many diseases, conditions, or injury. Common causes include: herniated discs, fractures of the spine, severe trauma, tumors, infections...

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Revision Surgery — When surgery has not lead to the desired results or many years after an operation a new problem develops that requires another surgery in the same area, one calls this revision surgery. This does not necessarily mean that the first surgery was wrong or badly done, it simply means that another surgery in the same area is required to fix a problem. Revision surgery is often a complex undertaking though, and should only be considered after a thorough review of all treatment options. An experienced surgical team is important since added risks and difficulties are faced when operating in an area of the spine which already has been surgically treated.

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Sacrum — The lowest portion of the spine (L5, lumbar vertebra) attaches to the pelvis through the sacrum. The sacrum is a bone which houses some of the lowest spinal nerves, it is rarely injured and rarely is a cause of nerve related troubles. Instrumentation is sometimes placed into the sacrum to offer solid anchorage/fixation to the spine in the setting of spinal fusion.

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Spinal Alignment — The healthy, normal spine has when seen from the side has a number of gentle curves, and when seen from the front is pretty much straight. This shape is created by the individual vertebrae and the discs and ligaments that link the vertebrae together. The way that the individual vertebrae are stacked upon each other is called alignment. One says that a spine is well aligned when the spinal column has a shape and balance that is normal, or close to normal.

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Spinal Canal — The central part of the spinal column contains a space shaped much like a tunnel that runs from the skull down to the pelvis. This central tunnel is called the spinal canal and it contains the spinal cord and nerve roots. The spinal canal can become narrowed for many different reasons (injury, abnormal formation, infection, disc herniation, facet joint degeneration?). When the spinal canal becomes narrowed due to degenerative