

A laboratory model of lumbar disc protrusion. Fissure and fragment.

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Brinckmann P₁, Porter RW.

The findings of this experiment support the hypothesis that disc prolapse--aside from the hyperflexion trauma described in the literature--has to be preceded by generation of radial fissures and tissue fragmentation within the disc. Thus, prolapse appears to be a late event during the course of a long-term degenerative process.