

# DISC PROSTHESES

## CERVICAL DISC ARTHROPLASTY

*Filippo Adamo, DVM, Dipl. ECVN*

*East Bay Area Veterinary Specialists – Walnut Creek, CA*

*ACVS October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 – San Diego, CA, USA*

# ACVS Surgery Summit

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## **Disclosure**

- I designed and developed the medical device included in this presentation.
- Currently the distributor through Applied Veterinary Technology, LLC

# Cervical Disc Arthroplasty “CDA”

## Goals:

**Preserve motion after neuronal decompression while providing distraction and stability**

## Potentials:

**May prevent the occurrence of domino lesion**

## Advantages:

**Treatment of multiples adjacent and not adjacent spaces**



# Cervical Disc Arthroplasty “CDA”

## *Indications*

- ***Disc Associated Wobbler Syndrome***
- ***Cervical Disc herniation***

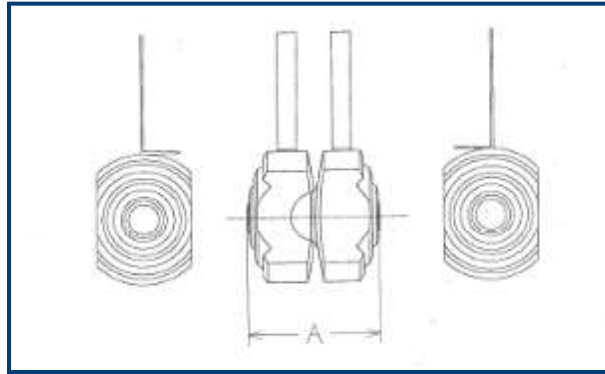
*Copy of this presentation:*  
[wobblersyndrome.com](http://wobblersyndrome.com)

# History

## ■Phase 1.

### DESIGN

- *Madison, WI 2003*



## ■Phase 2:

### IN VITRO BIOMECHANICAL STUDY

- *Adamo, Kobayashi et al. Vet Surgery 2007*

#### 4 Groups of 6 cervical spines (C5-C6)

- a) Arthroplasty,
- b) Ventral Slot,
- c) Pins+PMMA fixation,
- d) and normal spine

- *The artificial disc was better able to mimic the behavior of intact spine compared with ventral slot and Pin+PMMA groups.*



# Phase 3: Pilot clinical study in 2 owned clients dogs with DAWS

*Adamo JAVMA, 239(6), 2011*

## ■ **Results**

- Follow up to 3 ½ years post-op
  - *Died for unrelated neurological diseases*
- MRI re-check 2 years post-op
  - *No evidence of compression at the treated and adjacent sites*

## ■ **Conclusions**

- Cervical arthroplasty was *well tolerated* and provided *excellent outcome* in both dogs

## ■ **Warranted further study:**

- Large number of patients
- Longer follow-up



**Titanium alloy**

Cervical Disc Arthroplasty using  
the Adamo Spinal Disc® in 33 dogs  
affected by Disc Associated  
Wobbler Syndrome  
at Single and Multiple Levels.

# A Multi-Center Prospective Study

## Study Authors

- F Adamo, DECVN
  - East Bay Vet Specialists – CA
- R Da Costa, DACVIM (Neurology)
  - The Ohio State University – OH
- R Kroll, DACVIM (Neurology)
  - VCA Northwest Vet Specialists – OR
- C Giovannella, DACVIM (Neurology)
  - Gulf Coast Vet Neurology/Neurosurgery – TX
- M Podell, DACVIM (Neurology)
  - Chicago Vet Specialty Group – IL
- P Brofman, DACVIM (Neurology)
  - Veterinary Specialty Care, SC





# Objective

To evaluate the immediate postoperative recovery, and the short-, intermediate-, and long-term follow-up of dogs **with one level** and **multi-level disc-associated-wobbler-syndrome (DAWS)** treated with **cervical disc arthroplasty (CDA)**.



# Material & Methods

- Implant: similar to that described in the preliminary study, but with several modifications.

*Adamo JAVMA, 239(6), 2011*

## Adamo Spinal Disc 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation

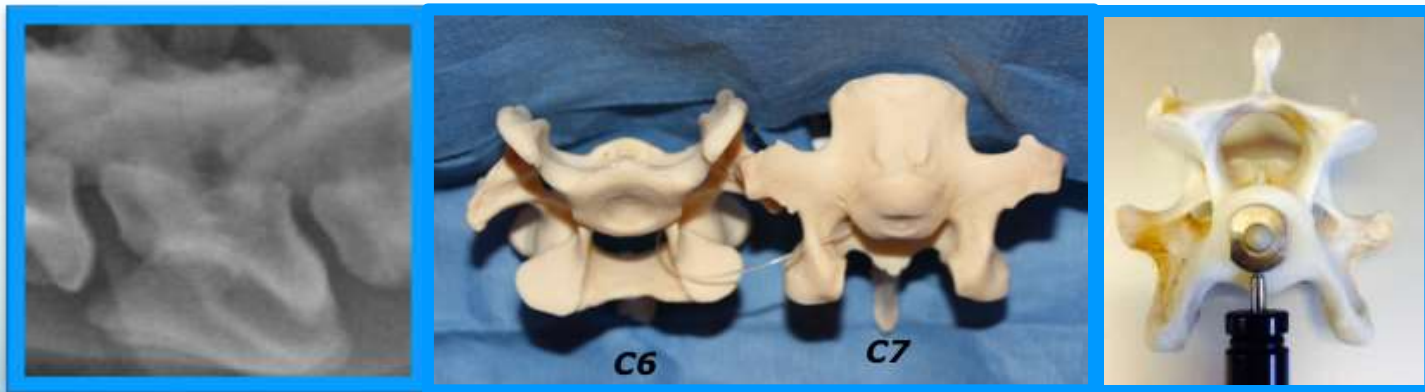
- Internal surfaces
  - Concavity is titanium
  - Convexity is PEEK
    - (PolyEther Ether Ketone)
      - Termoplastic polymer
      - Decreases friction
      - Prevent metallic debris from a metal to metal joint
- Acts as a ball and the socket



**Patent: US 8,496,707 B2**

# Implant

- External surface
  - Convex
    - To resemble natural concavity of vertebral end plates
    - To prevent implant migration



# Implant

- External surface
  - Concentric grooves
    - To provide “grip”
    - To allow bone in-growth into the implant
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation
    - Treated with Dual Acid Etch Bath
      - to promotes bone/implant incorporation
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation
    - Treated with Hydroxyapatite
      - to better promotes bone/implant incorporation



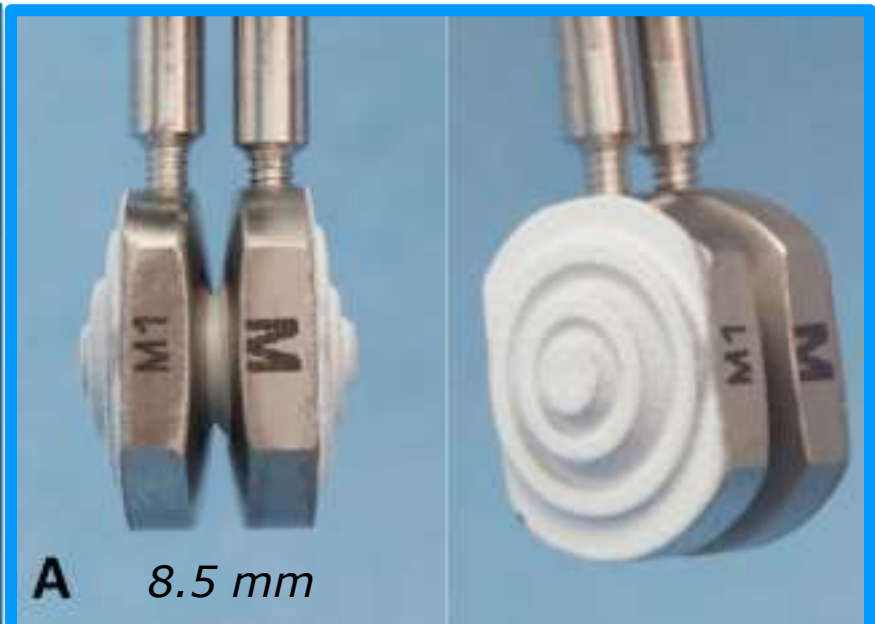
# Implant Design Modification



1<sup>st</sup> generation

2<sup>nd</sup> generation

- Ball in PEEK
- Thinner size



3<sup>rd</sup> generation

- Ball in PEEK
- Thinner size
- Hydroxyapatite Coating

# Implant Design Modification

- 6 different disc sizes



- Set of dedicated tools



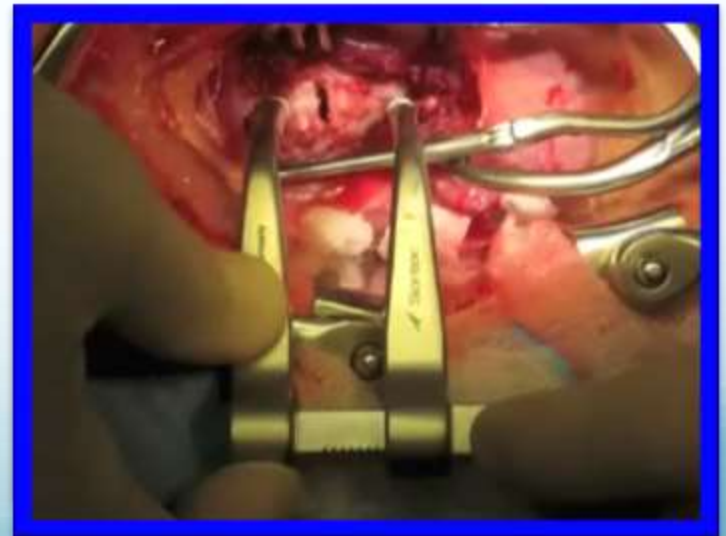


# Implant Design Modification

- 6 different disc sizes



- Set of dedicated tools



# CDA Disc Placement





# CDA Disc Placement

- Visit: <http://youtu.be/DaFRzcvjyXY>



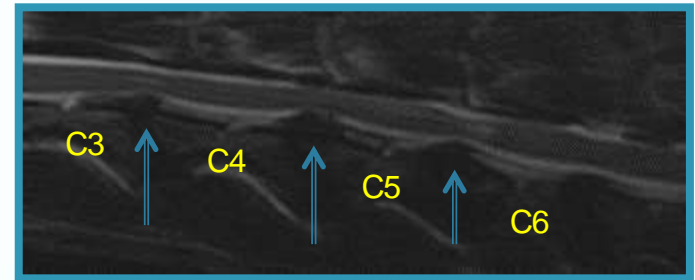
# Including Criteria

- Sample population:
  - First 33 clients-owned dogs w/ over 2 mo. history of DAWS
  - Diagnosed by MRI or CT myelo
  - Weight over 23 kg, but one (12.2 Kg)
- Neurologically and radiologically evaluated
  - Prior to surgery
  - Shortly after surgery
    - within 24 hrs
  - At 2 wks & 3, 6, 12 & 24 mo. after surgery



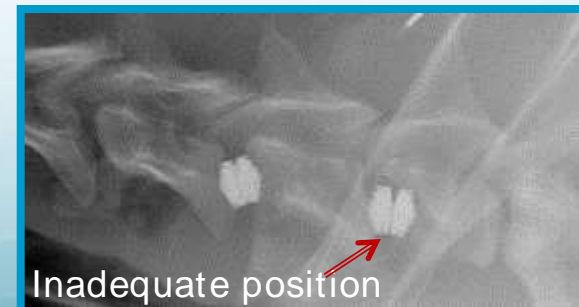
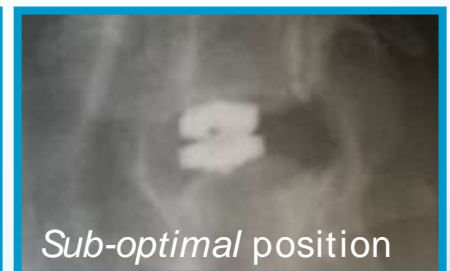
# Material and Methods

- Total = 50 disc sites treated
  - Single, two and three level lesions
- Neurological Assessment
  - Grade 0 to 6
    - De Decker, et al. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2012; 240:848–857



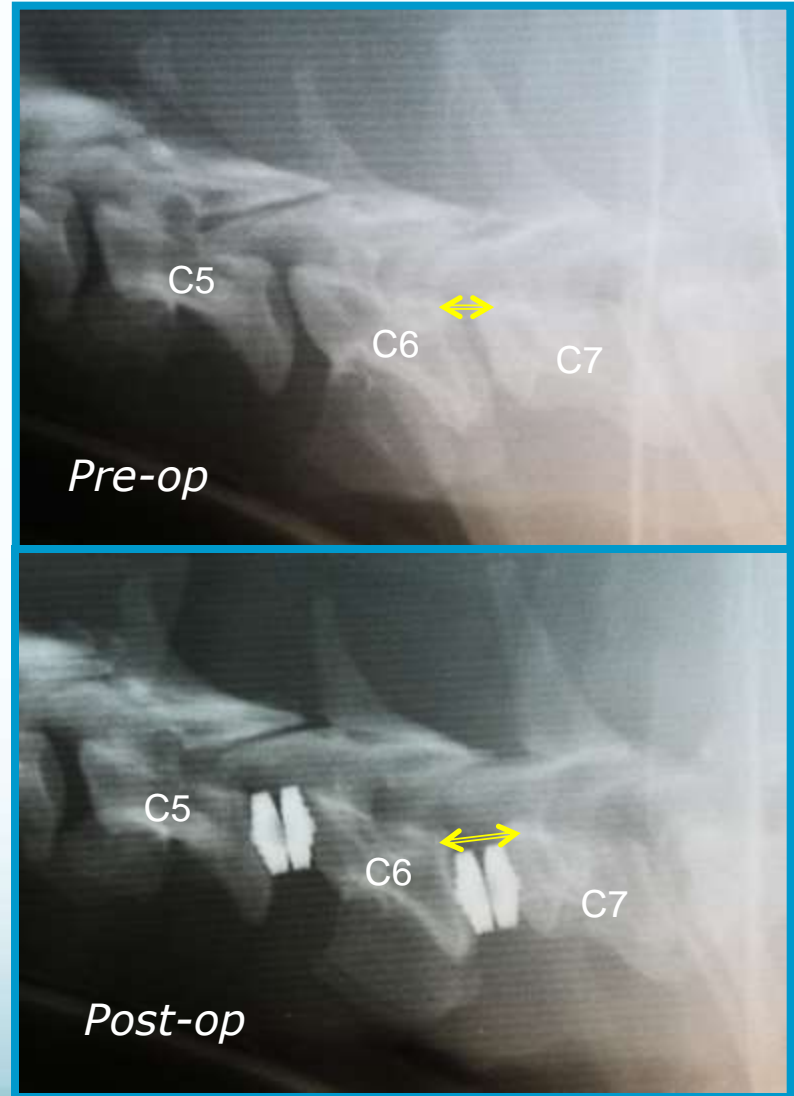
- **Implant Position**

- **Optimal**
  - Well centered in lateral and VD
- **Sub-optimal**
  - Off midline on VD
- **Inadequate**
  - Not seated in the center on lateral view



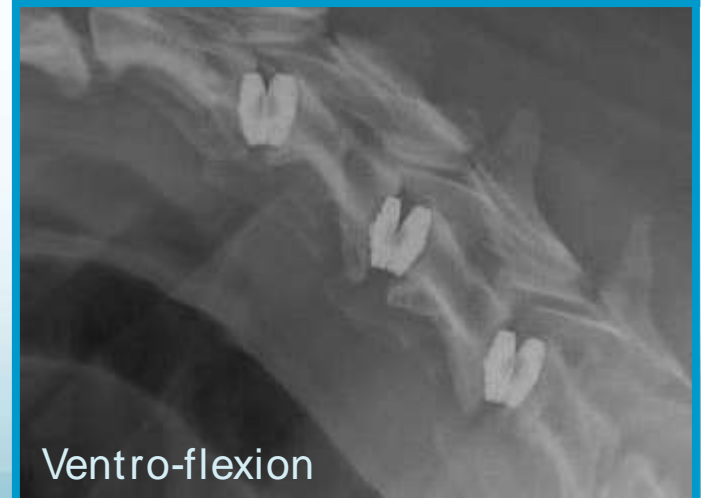
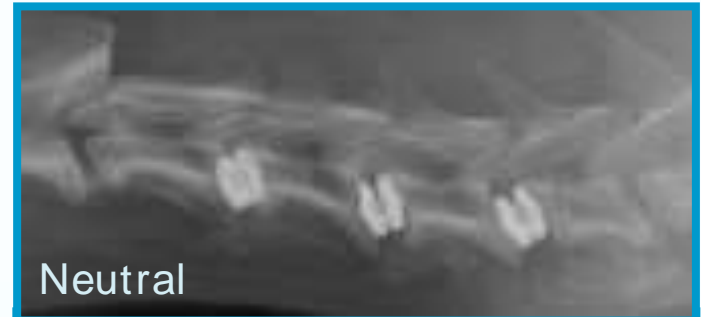
# Distraction

- Relative Distraction ratio (RDR):
  - Ratio between post-op and pre-op width at the treated space
  - Adequate / Ideal\*
    - $RDR > 1.7 \text{ and } < 2$ 
      - \* Equivalent to a distraction of 2-3 mm
  - Under distraction
    - $RDR < 1.7$
  - Over-distraction
    - $RDR > 2$



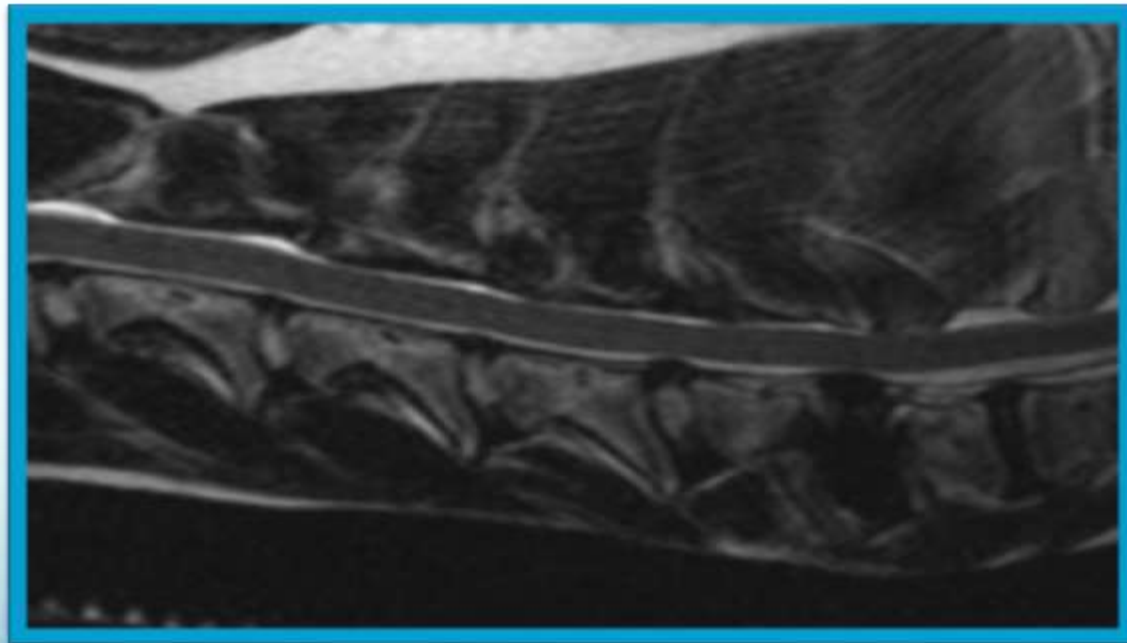
# Mobility

- Distance between dorsal and ventral edge of the 2 faces of the implant in neutral and stressed views
  - Present
  - Lost or Not detectable



# MRI re-evaluation

- 2 years post-op when possible
- As needed, in the event of recurrence of clinical signs





# Results



- Breeds:

- 17 Doberman Pinchers (50%)
- 3 Dalmatians
- 2 Labrador
- 2 Bernese Mountain dog
- 1 Standard Poodle
- 1 Weimeraner
- 1 Boxer
- 1 Greyhound
- 5 Mix

- Sex:

- 21 M; 12 F

- Age:

- 4 - 13 y; Mean 8.3 y
- 27% over 10 y old

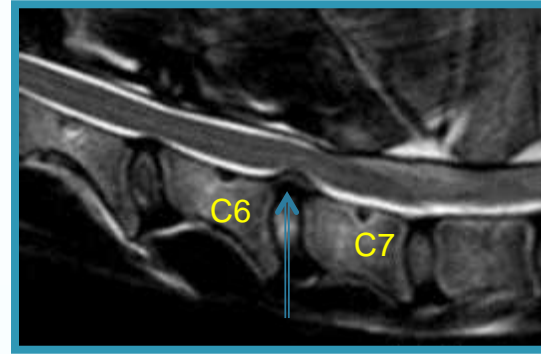




# Lesion Localization

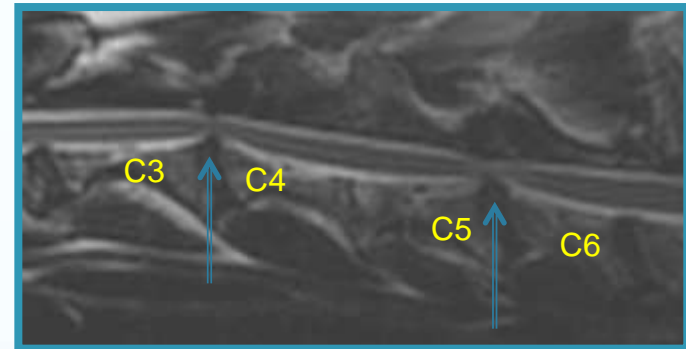
- Single level: 19 dogs

- C6-C7 (13 dogs)
- C5-C6 (5 dogs)
- C3-C4 (1 dog)



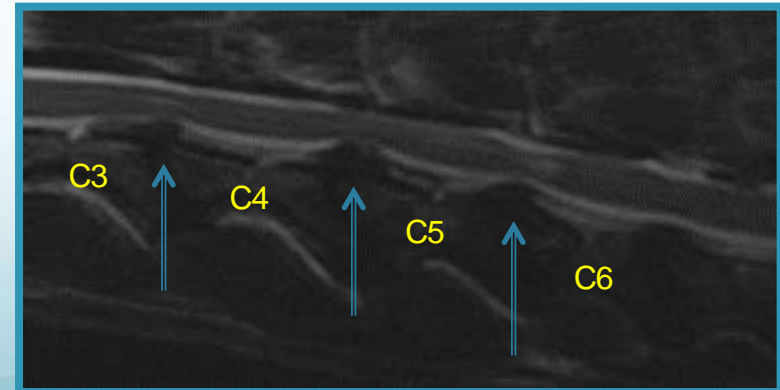
- Two levels: 10 dogs

- C5-C6 & C6-C7 (8 dogs)
- C4-C5 & C5-C6 (1 dog)
- C3-C4 & C5-C6 (1 dog)



- Three levels: 3 dogs

- C3-C4, C5-C6 & C6-C7 (2 dogs)
- C2-C3, C5-C6 & C6-C7 (1 dog)

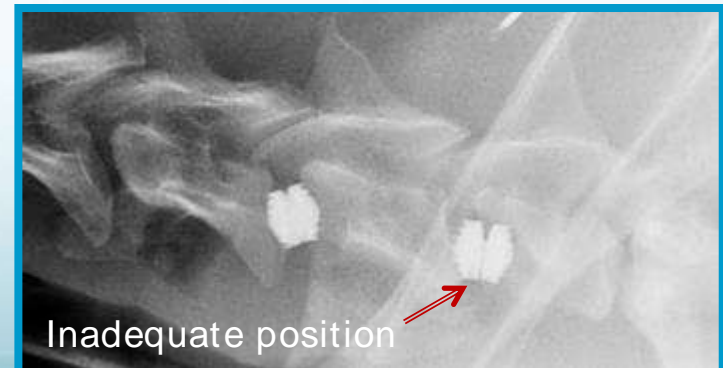
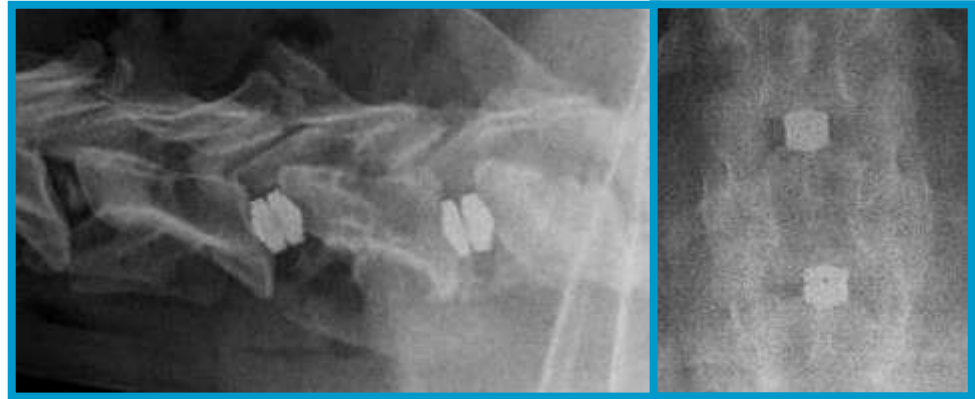


TOTAL: 50 Spaces treated

# Immediate Post-op Radiographs

## ■ Implant position:

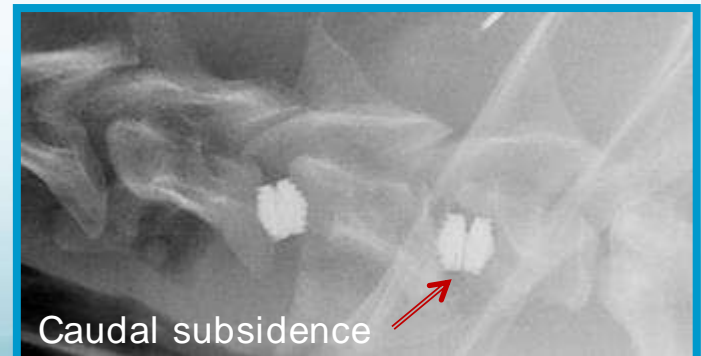
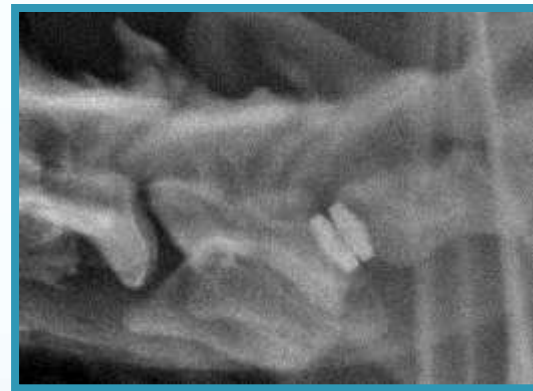
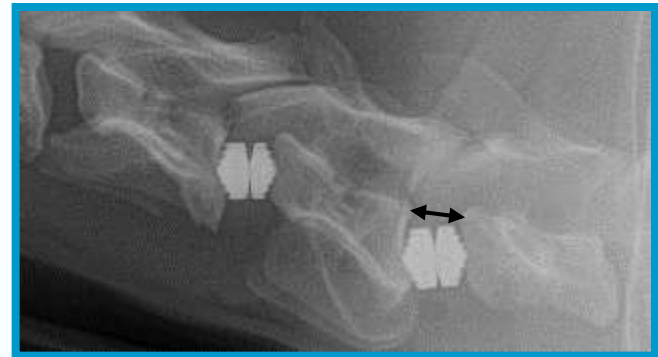
- Optimal (40/48 sites)
  - Sub-optimal (7/48 sites)
    - Off midline on VD
- Inadequate (1/48 sites)
  - Improper technique
    - Excessive burring of caudal endplate
    - immediate subsidence



# Immediate Post-op Radiographs

## ■ Distraction:

- Over-distraction (15/50 sites)
  - Mostly with 1<sup>st</sup> generation (thicker) implant
- Adequate distraction (34/50 sites)
  - Mostly with 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> generation (thinner) implant
- Under-distraction: (1/50 sites)
  - Improper technique
    - Excessive burring of caudal endplate – immediate subsidence



# Serial Radiographic Assessment

- Minor Subsidence

Distraction lost compared to immediate post-op, but **maintained** when compared to pre-op

- **All sites**

- More pronounced with 1<sup>st</sup> generation (thicker) implant
- Less pronounced with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation (thinner) implant



- Severe Subsidence

Distraction lost compared to pre-op

- **7/50 sites (14%)**

- Ventral Osteophytes

- **2 sites in one dog**



# Serial Radiographic Assessment

- Mobility

- Present:

- at 2 wks post-op in 88% in 24 dogs examined
    - at 6 mo post-op in 23% in 14 dogs examined

🎵 In 7 dogs where dynamic study was performed immediately after surgery: mobility although expected was not detectable in 5/10 of the treated spaces

- No Implant migration

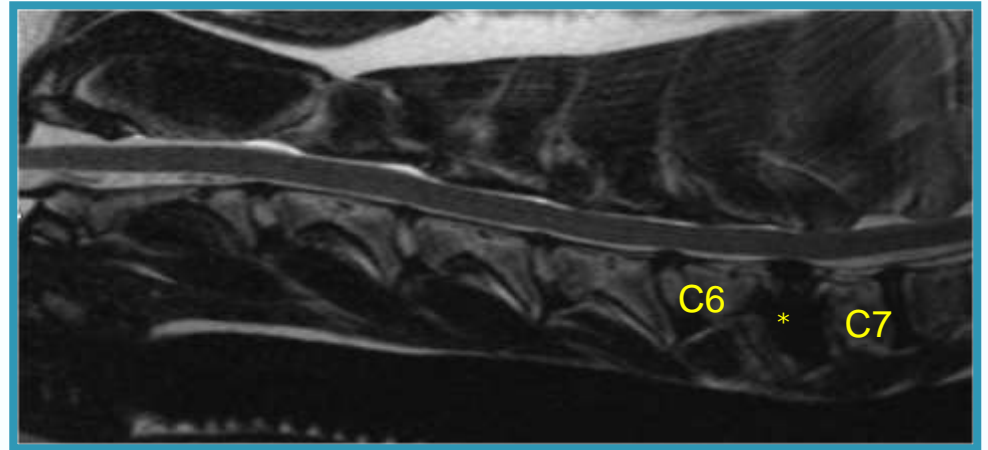
- No Implant infection



# MRI Re-assessment

- 20-24 mo. post-op (4 dogs)

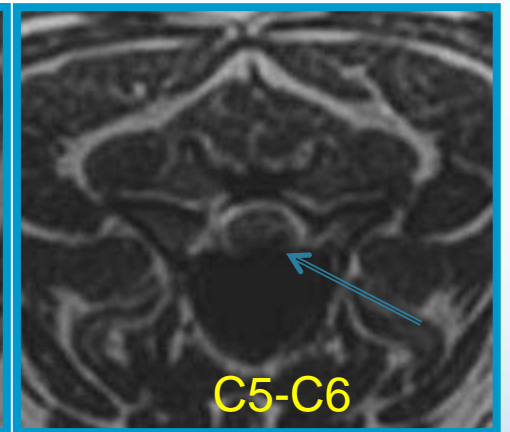
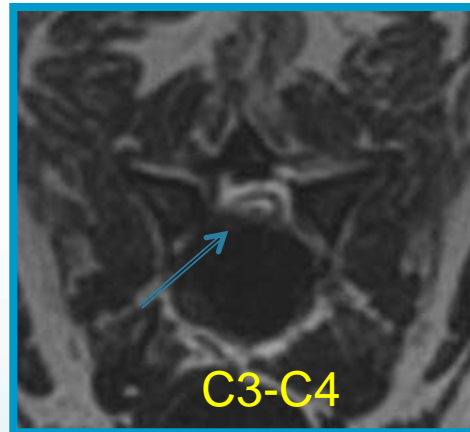
- 2 dogs: No signs of disc degeneration or compression at treated and adjacent sites



- 2 dogs: New osteophytes or heterotopic ossification.

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation implant

- In all dogs the implant **didn't affect the spinal cord visibility**





# Clinical Assessment

- Post-op recovery time
  - Immediate in all dogs
  - Neurological status unchanged compared to pre-op status in all dogs
- Post-op hospitalization time \*
  - Discharged same day: 5 dogs
  - 1 and 3 days : 25 dogs
  - 4 and 5 days: 2 dogs
    - Based on the severity of the neurological status pre-surgery



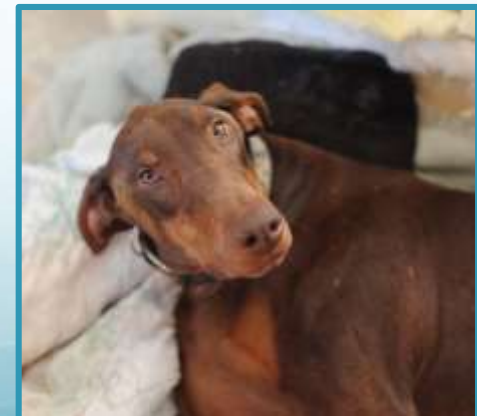
# Clinical Assessment

Follow-up: Mean 23 mo, (range 2 wks - 42 mo)

- 22 dogs still alive
- 11 dogs deceased
  - 9 for non-neurological diseases
  - 2 euthanasia: insufficient improvement and complications

## Patient Outcome

- 91% have shown improvement of at least 1+ neurological grade
  - Satisfactory to Excellent: 30 dogs
  - Unsatisfactory: 1 dog
  - Poor: 2 dogs
- No Domino lesions during the observation period
  - Better: mild and short duration of signs on presentation
  - Worse: chronic non-ambulatory paraparesis + extensor rigidity of front legs not resolving under general anesthesia





# Complications

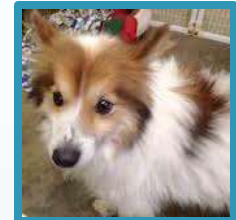
- Vertebral fissure fracture during distraction: 2 dogs
  - Improper Caspar pins placement
    - → didn't affect the outcome



- Immediate subsidence: 1 dog
  - Improper technique: over-burring.
    - → improved after surgical revision



- Vertebral fracture with ventral implant displacement: 1 dog
  - Sheltie Mix, F, 12.4 y old, weight 12.2 kg
  - 4 years ambulatory ataxia,
  - 6 month prior to referral non ambulatory tetraparesis with extensor rigidity all 4 legs, not resolving under anesthesia
  - Overdistraction (RDR 3.2; normal  $> 1.7$  and  $< 2$ )
    - → euth 2 wks after surgery



## **Patch:** 6 y old MN Dalmatian

6 mo ataxia/ tetraparesis worsening 2 mo prior to presentation

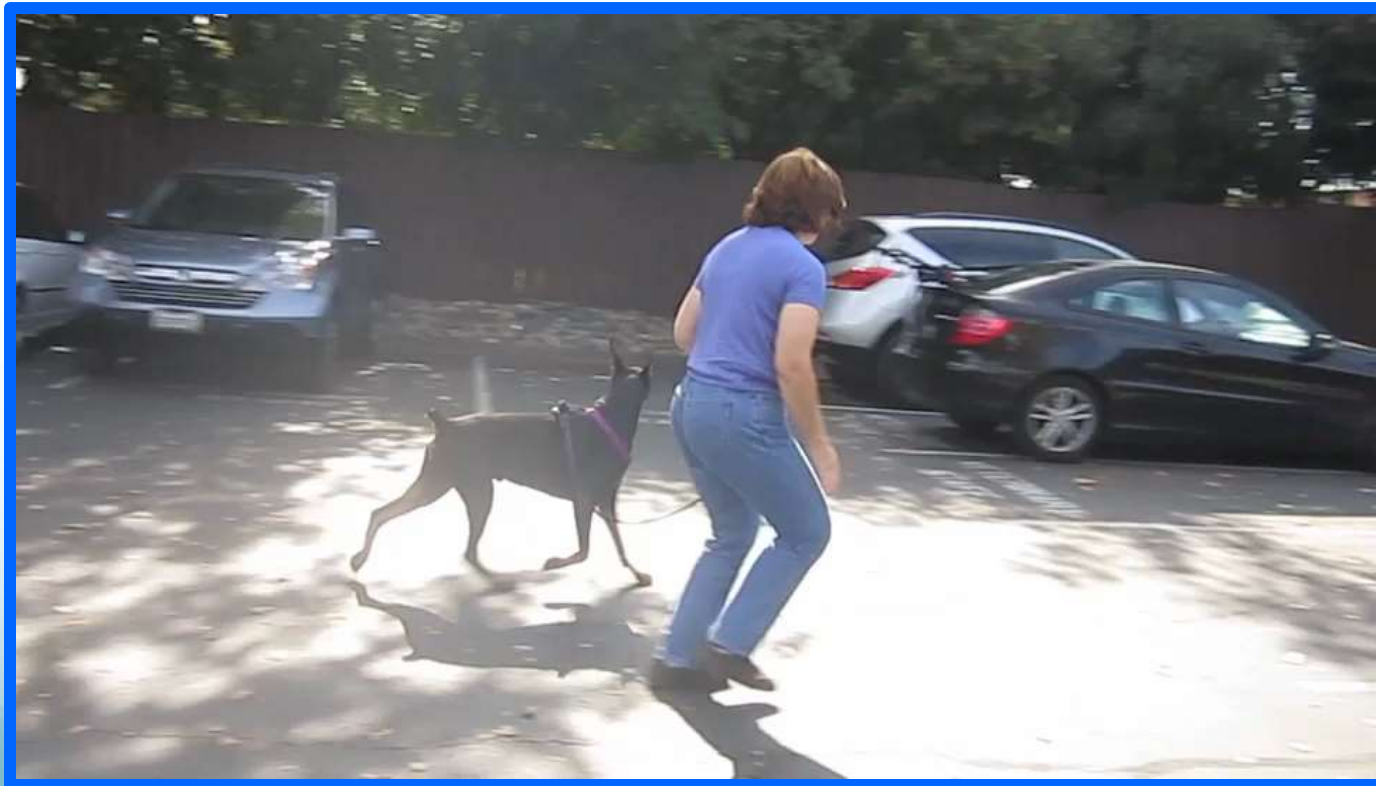
- **Case study:** Visit: <http://youtu.be/evMKCX4UDHg>



**Sonny:** 8 y old MN Doberman,  
presented with 1y ataxia/ tetraparesis, and acute tetraplegic

**6 months post-op** Visit:

<http://youtu.be/9OPx6tFcKmU>



# Advantages of CDA

- Less invasive than traditional surgeries
- Rapid post-surgical recovery
- Can be performed on a out-patient basis
- Treatment of multiple lesions at adjacent or non-adjacent sites
- Prophylactically **for** “Incipient lesions”
- **May prevent “Domino lesions”**



# Conclusions

- CDA using this prosthesis appears to be safe and effective
- Suitable for medium and large breed dogs
- Rapid post-surgical recovery
- Ideal for treating multiple levels
- Not technically difficult and easy to master
- **Dog's owners more prone to pursuing surgery**



As for any other surgery: CEC: Case selection , Early Intervention and Correct execution of the surgical technique may be critical factors for the outcome

**“Case selection is King,  
.... technique is the Prince”**

- number 6 of the most commonly cited attributes of a “great” surgeon!

Dr. Zelman column

# Future Directions

- Central Axis of Rotation of the Normal Disc
- Other materials surfaces or coating to promote bone-implant osseointegration
- Other modules to improve elasticity of the implant which may help to reduce subsidence
- Longer term clinical studies



# Acknowledgments

- Colleagues whose cases are represented here
- Pet owners who placed hope and trust in the application of this technology for their dogs



# Questions?

## Contact:

*Filippo Adamo, DVM, DECVN*

East Bay Veterinary Specialists &  
Emergency

Walnut Creek – CA  
Phone: 925.937.5001

[www.ebvs.com](http://www.ebvs.com)

[flppadamo@yahoo.com](mailto:flppadamo@yahoo.com)

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# Second practical CDA Course

- **December 6, 2014**
- Las Vegas, Oquendo Center

