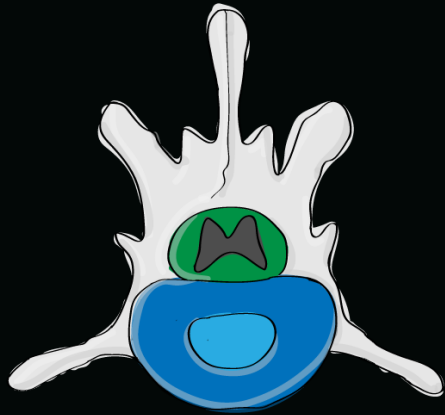


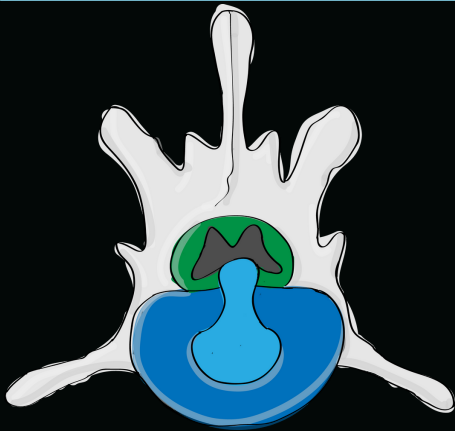


Intervertebral Disc Disease



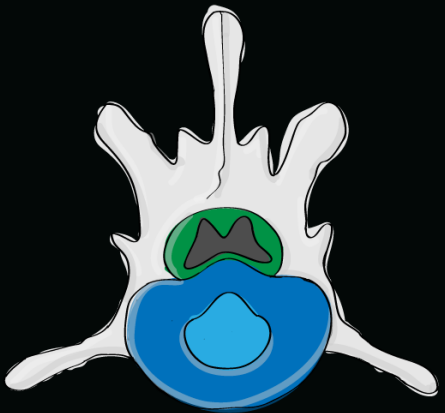
Normal Disc

An intervertebral disc acts as a shock absorber between the vertebral bodies. A healthy disc is made of two layers: the inner nucleus pulposus and the annulus fibrosis.



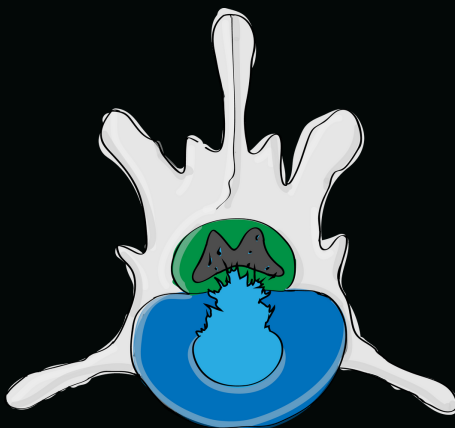
Disc Extrusion: Type I

Acute extrusion of the nucleus pulposus through a tear in the annulus fibrosis, resulting in compression of the spinal cord and/or nerve roots.



Disc Protrusion: Type II

Chronic degeneration of the disc material as it becomes dehydrated and collapses. This causes a herniation of the disc material and compression of the spinal cord.



Traumatic Disc: Type III

A projectile rupture of a portion of the healthy nucleus collides with the spinal cord causing a traumatic injury. Known as a "paintball injury" or a "high velocity, low volume disc", the nucleus material quickly disperses without any cord compression.