**Presentation:** Chondrodystrophoid breed with acute back pain, pelvic limb ataxia, paraparesis, or paraplegia

**Test of choice:** MRI – a high-field MRI is safe and fast

- Myelography
  - Next best thing
  - Irritates spinal cord
  - Dogs usually seizure during recovery
- Plain radiography
  - Narrowed intervertebral disc space
  - Presence of calcified disc(s)

**Rx of choice:**

- **Strict cage rest** if ambulatory
- **Hemilaminectomy** if nonambulatory

**Pain management**

- Opiate drugs - preferred
- Muscle relaxers will relieve pain from muscle spasms
- NSAIDs and corticosteroids-controversial
  - High risk of GI ulceration

**Pearls:**

- **80%** occur between T10 and L3 vertebrae
- **Hansen Type I** disc – extruded nucleus pulposis into spinal canal
- **Hansen Type II** disc – protruded annulus (usu **NON**-chondrodystrophoid breeds)

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**Zuku Review FlashNotes™**

**Classic Question(s)**

What is the best treatment for a dog with intervertebral disc extrusion that is paraplegic?

What is the best treatment for a dog with intervertebral disc extrusion that is ambulatory with back pain only.

What is the safest diagnostic test for localizing a ruptured disc?

Which breeds of dog are predisposed to Type I disc ruptures? Type II disc ruptures?