## **Spinal Fusion**

Spinal Fusion is a procedure performed for individuals with a severe Disc herniation, Degeneration, or other spinal injury that is not improving with conservative methods. During the procedure, metal plates will be used to fuse 2 spinal vertebrae together to limit instability at that level. Following a spinal fusion surgery, individuals will begin Physical Therapy typically around 6 weeks post-op. A complete recovery usually requires at least 6 months to a year.

• <u>Anatomy</u>



- <u>Mechanism of Injury</u>
  - The result of severe spinal injuries that can not be treated through conservative treatments.
- <u>Treatment</u>
  - Manual Therapy for muscle spasms surrounding the surgery site.
  - Posture/Body Mechanics for improved lumbopelvic stability
  - Therapeutic Exercise/Pilates focusing on core stability
  - $\circ~$  Ice and Electric Muscle Stimulation to decrease inflammation
  - Home Exercise Program for core stability