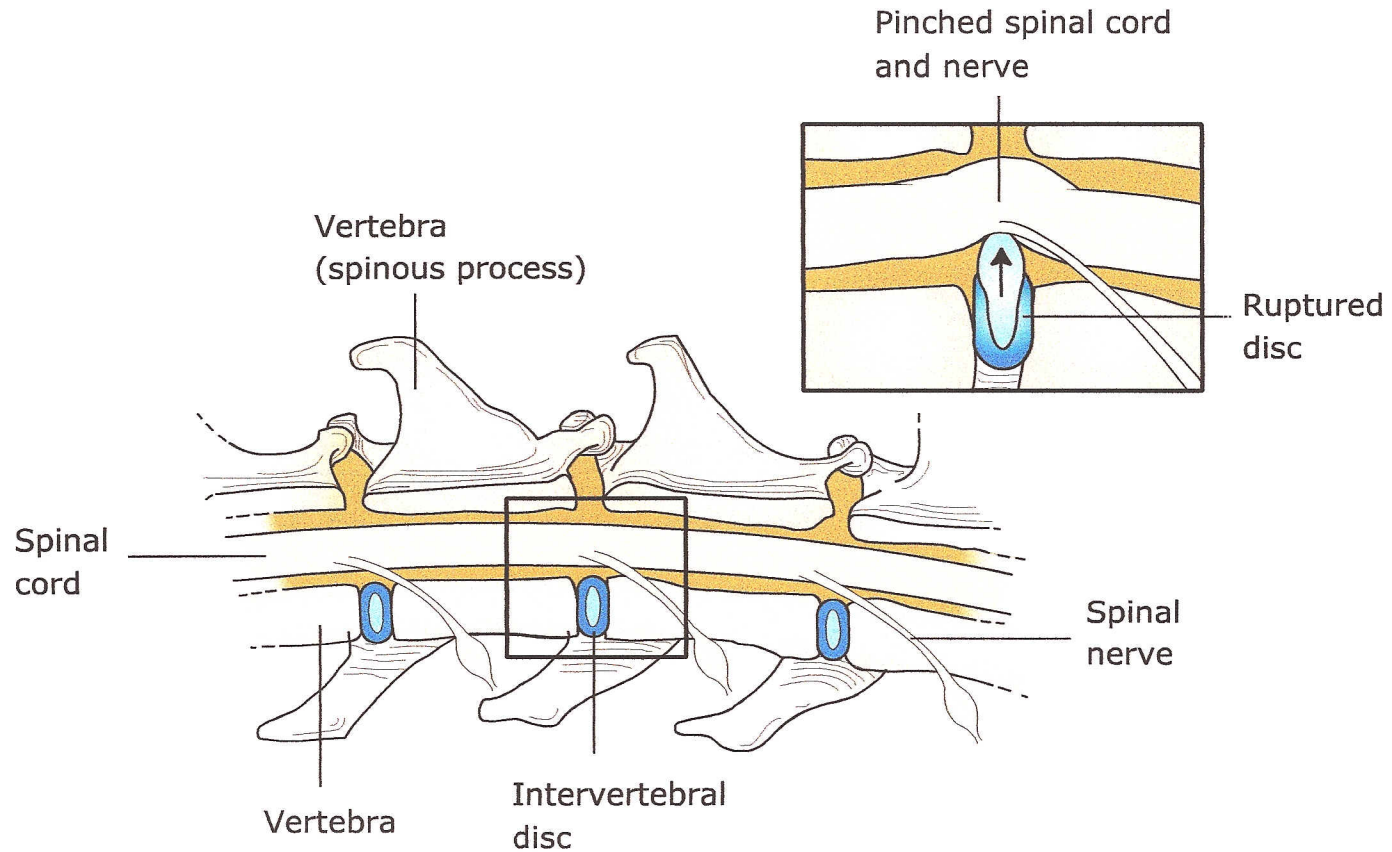


Degenerate Disc: Description of degenerative disease.



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The tough fibrous layer of the disc is thinnest at the top. In a condition called degenerative disc disease, this fibrous layer weakens and eventually tears, usually at the thinnest part. Any pressure on the degenerated disc will force the inner material out of the disc. This is correctly called a disc prolapse, but is often called a "slipped disc". The prolapsed material pushes against the spinal cord, causing pain and/or paralysis.