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Sternal metastasis - the forgotten column and its effect on thoracic spine stability

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**Abstract**

Sternal metastases are not studied extensively in the literature. There is a paucity of information on their role in metastatic disease. The concept of the fourth column was described by Berg in 1993, and has been proven in case report, clinically and biomechanical studies. The role of the sternum as a support to the thoracic spine is well documented in the trauma patients, but not much is known about its role in cancer patients. This review examines what is known on the role of the fourth column. Following this we have identified two likely scenarios that sternal metastases may impact management. 1) Sternal pathological fracture increases the mobility of the

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Sternal metastasis - the forgotten column and its effect on thoracic spine



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## Biomechanical effects of laminectomy on thoracic spine stability. - NCBI

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Eight specimens were tested intact (Group I); the remaining seven preparations were tested after two-level laminectomy (Group II) at the midheight of the column.