

INTRODUCTION

Spondylolysis means fracture through the pars interarticularis without vertebral slippage whereas **spondylolisthesis** is defined as slippage of one vertebra onto another (Robert T., 1994).

Spondylolisthesis was first described by Belgian obstetrician in a patient suffering from childbirth difficulty because of the anterior displacement of the fifth lumbar vertebra on the first sacral vertebra. **Robert in 1855.** described spondylolysis as a defect in the pars interarticularis and demonstrated that disruption of the ligamentous structures of the spine was necessary to produce displacement of the vertebra or spondylolisthesis.

(Cuckler & Rothman, 1985).

The term spondylolisthesis was coined by Killian and first used in a paper published at 1854. At that time when Killian coined the word, it was believed that the whole vertebra slipped forward therefore this term seemed to describe the condition very adequately. In the years since, it has been determined that in the majority of cases where the term spondylolisthesis is used, there is actually separation at the pars interarticularis, also separation can occur without any slippage of the vertebra and thus the word **spondylolysis** has been used in this case; lysis comes again from the Greek meaning loosing, coming a part or

dissolving, thus we have two terms in common usage (spondylolysis) in which there is dissolution at the pars interarticularis and (spondylolisthesis) in which there is a slip in all or part of the vertebra (Anderson Carl., 1956).