The aim of spinal research at the VU University Medical Center is to improve treatment strategies for low back pain. This requires a thorough insight in the mechanics of the intervertebral disc as an important structure in the healthy spine and in low back pain.

Mechanical loading plays a role in the life cycle of the intervertebral disc. In literature, mechanical behaviour of the intervertebral disc is often described from short-term experiments, usually with the unloaded situation as a starting point. The effect of loading history on disc mechanics is, in general, disregarded. The gap in knowledge on disc behaviour under sustained loading is the starting point of the research in this thesis.

The in vitro results of the mechanical behaviour of the intervertebral disc, presented in this thesis, have implications for testing of spinal motion sections, but can also be translated to the in vivo behaviour of the disc.

INVITATION

to attend the public thesis defence of

Albert van der Veen

Friday
October 16th 2009
at 13.45

in the Aula of
Vrije Universiteit
Amsterdam
De Boelelaan 1105

Mechanical behaviour of the intervertebral disc under sustained compressive loading

After the ceremony everybody is invited for the reception

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