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Cover image: This image of lumbar vertebrae in a patient with ankylosing spondylitis (bamboo spine) is from the American College of Rheumatology Slide Collection. The radiograph of the lumbar spine on the left and the sagittal section (anterior elements) on the right demonstrate bony bridging of adjacent vertebrae as a result of ossification in the peripheral portions of the intervertebral discs (annulus fibrosus). This change is most severe anteriorly (see radiograph) and results in the so-called bamboo spine.