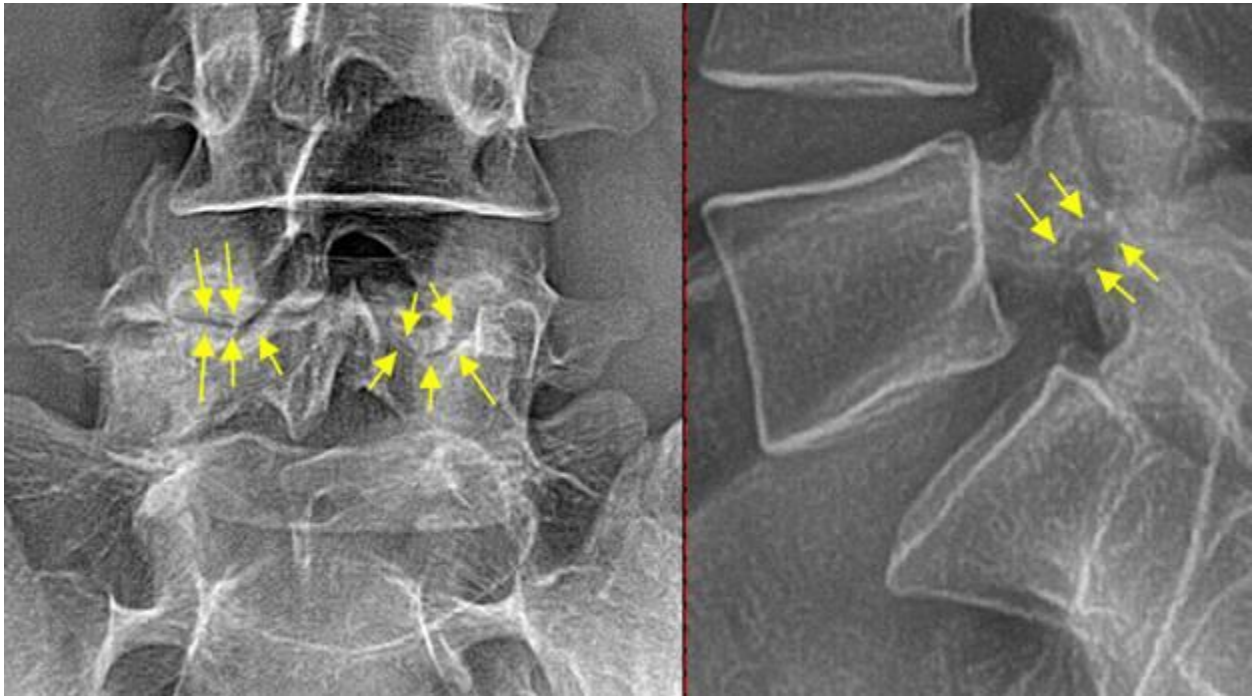


Pars Defect



We all learned in Chiropractic College that the oblique films best show pars defects. The reality is that pars defects can almost always be seen on the AP and/or Lateral film. On the AP film, look just medial or inferior to the pedicle shadow for a radiolucent line (seen below) or a double cortical line (not seen here). On the lateral film, look for a radiolucency between the superior and inferior facet as seen below. Remember that when we see radiolucent pars defects these are healed stress fractures and are not new. The current terminology for old healed pars defects is “inactive”. The standard within the profession is to adjust above or below the spongy but not at that level.