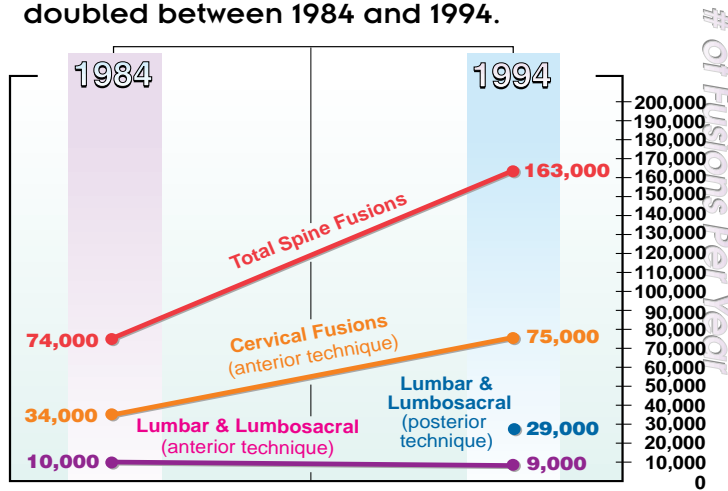


Spinal Fusion on the Rise

According to a recent article in the *Spine Letter*, the number of **spinal fusions** has more than doubled between 1984 and 1994.



This trend gives credibility to the old saying:
"When all you have is a knife, everything looks like surgery."



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Discharge Survey 1984-1994, and American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons Department of Research and Scientific Affairs as reported by *Spine Letter*, vol. 4 No. 6, June 1997.