DECISION TREE

BACK PAIN +/- LEG PAIN? NECK PAIN +/- ARM PAIN?

Shachi Patel, MD



REFER TO SPINE

SURGEON

ANY RED FLAGS?

- Age > 50
- Bowel or Urinary Incontinence
- Fever or Recent Infection
- History of Cancer
- Immunocompromised
- IV Drug Use
- Saddle Anesthesia
- Severe / Progressive Motor Deficits
- Trauma
- Weight Loss

\$

ACUTE NERVE IMPINGEMENT
WITHOUT SEVERE OR
PROGRESSIVE MOTOR DEFICITS?



SIGNS OF CERVICAL / LUMBAR STENOSIS?



RISK FACTORS FOR VERTEBRAL COMPRESSION?

- Age > 50
- Osteoporosis
- Steroid Use
- Trauma/Fall



IN ABSENCE OF THESE FINDINGS, ADVISE PATIENT:

- Consider Pharmacologic Therapy
- Remain Active / PT

ANY CONCERNS FOR THE FOLLOWING?

- Cauda Equina
- Hematoma
- Infection
- Myelopathy
- Severe/Progressive Motor Deficits
 - Tumor

ORDER MRI

REFER TO



Call to Schedule (302) 527-6082

ORDER X-RAY

ACUTE VERTEBRAL COMPRESSION FRACTURE?

IF PAIN LASTS > 6 WEEKS