



Numbness/Weakness/Gait Instability

Pre-Referral Considerations:

1. Radicular symptoms, autoimmune disorder, heavy metal exposure, or headaches

Red Flags:

1. Consider imaging, alternate referral or emergent referral
2. Trauma, bowel or bladder incontinence, malignancy, history of TIA/Stroke, diabetes mellitus, or hyperlipidemia

Lab Studies:

1. CBC, CMP, TSH, B12, CK, SPEP with immunofixation

Imaging Studies:

1. Please send images (CD) if any studies such as head CT or MRI brain, cervical MRI, or MRI lumbar spine available
2. Also include work up such as EMG if has been done

What to Avoid Ordering:

1. Don't order MRI studies or EMG if have not been done

Comments:

Patient Information:

1. Symptoms sudden or gradual in onset
2. Unilateral or bilateral symptoms and if any facial involvement
3. Abnormal movements of extremities
4. Any focal symptoms or residual deficits
5. History of muscle pain
6. Difficulty in swallowing, breathing or speech
7. Medications such as use of steroids, statins, psychiatric medications
8. Current functional status such as living independently, nursing facility, or using cane or walker

Our providers prefer to review all imaging studies themselves

Note: Unnecessary testing should be avoided; however, if a primary care provider has a high index of suspicion of a specific diagnosis that merits further testing, appropriate pre-referral testing could be ordered.