

Evidence Discussion (SP-11)

Spinal Compression Fractures

The diagnosis of a spinal compression fracture may be suspected based on history and physical examination. Plain anteroposterior and lateral radiographs should be the initial imaging study obtained for a suspected compression fracture.^{1,2}

For patients (without a known malignancy) with a new symptomatic vertebral compression fracture identified on radiographs, MRI without contrast, CT without contrast, whole body bone scan, SPECT or SPECT/CT is supported by the American College of Radiology Appropriateness Criteria for Management of Vertebral Compression Fractures (revised 2022). [3] Advanced imaging can also be helpful for identifying a fracture that is not well visualized on plain films.^{2,4}

It has been shown that bone marrow signal on MRI can help identify an acute fracture and distinguish ages of compression fractures.^{5,6} Additionally, the benefits of advanced imaging prior to vertebral augmentation have been reported.⁷⁻⁹

References

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