



Differential Diagnoses for Back Pain in Older Persons
Non-systemic/Mechanical Causes of Back Pain
Lumbar strain (muscle)
Spinal stenosis
Degenerative disease: spondylosis (discs and facet joints)
Spondylolisthesis
Spondylolysis
Sciatica
Piriformis syndrome
Herniated disc
Osteoporotic vertebral or sacral compression fractures
Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH)
Congenital disease: kyphosis, scoliosis
Systemic Causes of Back Pain
Malignancy: Multiple myeloma, metastatic disease, lymphoma, spinal cord tumors, retroperitoneal tumors
Infection: Osteomyelitis, septic discitis, paraspinous abscess, bacterial endocarditis
Inflammatory arthritis: Ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, reactive arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease
Osteochondrosis
Paget's disease
Visceral: Aortic aneurysm, prostatitis, nephrolithiasis, pyelonephritis, perinephric abscess, pancreatitis, cholecystitis, penetrating ulcer, fat herniation of lumbar space