

**CLINICAL SKILLS EVALUATION  
PATIENT NOTE**

**HISTORY:** Describe the history you just obtained from this patient. Include only information (pertinent positives and negatives) relevant to this patient's problem(s).

75-y-o woman with sudden onset back pain last night while lifting turkey from oven.

- pain in midline, mid-thoracic
  - sharp, stabbing in nature
  - worse with movement or deep breath, better with rest
  - not improved with acetaminophen
  - no symptoms in legs, no fever or chills
  - had minor back pain in past that resolved on its own
  - Post-menopausal due to hysterectomy at age 40, not on HRT
- PMH: fracture of foot bone last year  
Meds: acetaminophen for occasional headache and daily multivitamin

History can be presented in either narrative or listed format for full credit.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:**

those parts of examination y

The examinee has described the findings relevant to the back pain, and is not required to report a complete physical examination.

Well-nourished woman looks her age, alert and lucid; Appears in pain, especially with movements; point tenderness over T8; straight leg test negative; sensation intact on bilateral feet. No weakness of ankle, knee or hip musculature. Deep tendon reflexes 2+ at patella and ankle;

"Pulled back muscle" is an inexact, non-medical term. The most likely diagnosis, vertebral fracture related to osteoporosis, has been overlooked, despite strong evidence from the history and physical examination. This will result in a lower score.

**DATA INTERPRETATION:** Based on what you have

explain this patient's complaint(s). List your diagnosis in order of most likely. List appropriate. Then, enter the positive or negative findings for each diagnosis. Lastly, list initial *diagnostic* studies (if appropriate) such as x-rays, maneuvers, laboratory tests, imaging, ECG, etc.).

**DIAGNOSIS #1:** Pulled back muscle

| HISTORY FINDING(S)                  | PHYSICAL EXAM FINDING(S) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sudden onset back pain with lifting | ROM limited by pain      |
| Pain worse with movement            |                          |

Add a Row

**DIAGNOSIS #2:** Herniated disc/nerve root compression

| HISTORY FINDING(s)           | PHYSICAL EXAM FINDING(s) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sudden onset back pain       | ROM limited by pain      |
| Occurred when lifting object |                          |
| Pain worse with movement     |                          |

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Add a Row

Few facts in the history and physical suggest this diagnosis, so it is appropriately listed lower than more likely diagnoses.

**DIAGNOSIS #3:** Epidural abscess

| HISTORY FINDING(s) | PHYSICAL EXAM FINDING(s) |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Back pain          |                          |

↑

Add a Row

| DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES    |
|-----------------------|
| Imaging of back/spine |

Add a Row

This diagnosis is poorly supported. Listing diagnoses that are not supported by the history will result in lower score.