

Imaging Modalities Quick Reference

X-ray

- Signs of fracture: break in cortex, soft tissue swelling, misalignment
- See IVF's: cervical: RAO (LPO)= IVF, LAO(RPO)= left IVF; Lumbar: LLS=IVF's
- Pars Views: lumbar oblique films: RPO= right pars, LPO=left pars

MRI Indications

- Not improving, suspect pathology, outcome may change care, neurologic findings
- With contrast: if issue with soft tissue is expected (ligament, tendon, muscle, spinal cord, brain, labrum)

Uses of CT

- Claustrophobic patients instead of MRI
- Fracture evaluation (great delineation of bone cortex and visualization of fracture lines)
- Visualize acute bleeding in brain (after a fall, or other head trauma)
- Acute spondylolysis (informs bracing, return to play)

Ultrasound

- Vascular evaluations: thrombosis, AAA
- Thyroid nodules
- Gall bladder

DEXA Scan

- Osteoporosis detection and monitoring