

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
- w/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