

## Case Scenario 2: Neuroradiology

AUTHOR: Jaffar Khan, M.D.

CC: Low Back Pain

HPI: A 55-year-old hispanic woman was in her usual state of health until one week ago when she experienced low back pain after and afternoon of raking leaves. That evening she noted a dull ache in her lower back on the right. Upon waking the next morning she had severe muscle spasm in the same region that prompt her to seek medical attention at a local emergency department. She was diagnosed with acute muscle spasm and discharged to home with instructions for bedrest and prescriptions for a “muscle relaxant and ibuprofen.”

The spasm improved over the next few days with the prescribed treatment plan, but the pain returned with minimal activity and she noticed numbness of her right foot and an inability to stand on her toes to reach the top shelf of her pantry. The pain is intermittent, brought on by movement and she characterizes it as an “electric-shock” that radiates down the back of her thigh to her “pinky toe.”

MEDS:       cyclobenzaprine  
              ibuprofen  
              glipizide

ALLERGIES: none

PMH: Diabetes mellitus

PSH: Hysterectomy at the age of 45 for uterine fibroids

FH: High blood pressure, diabetes mellitus

SH: Widowed with 3 children. Works as a housekeeper. Does not smoke or drink. No illicit drug use.

### VITALS

BP 130/88

HR 70

RR 14

SaO2 99%

Temp 98.1 F

### EXAM

General: Awake and alert. Oriented to time, place, and person. Appears to be in mild distress on the examination table.

HEENT: EOMI, PERRL. Normal funduscopy exam. Moist pink mucosa.

Neck: 3+ carotid pulses equal bilaterally. No bruits. No JVD. No thyromegaly.

Chest: PMI displaced toward the left. RRR. Lungs clear.  
Abdomen: Benign  
Extremities: Moves bilateral upper and left lower extremities well. Guards against movement of the right lower extremity. No edema.  
Neuro: Speech - clear  
Language - normal  
Cranial nerves - normal  
Motor testing – weakness of the right plantar flexion and hip extension.  
Reflexes - absent patellar reflex on the right. All other muscle stretch reflexes 2+.  
Sensation – reduced pain and temp on the lateral aspect and sole of the right foot.  
Gait – normal stance and posture. Able to walk on heels but unable to walk on her toes on the right.