Lumbar Spine X-ray Guideline

Note: For initial evaluation after trauma, routine 3 view (AP/Lateral/L5-S1 Spot) is recommended unless requested by a spine surgeon.

**Routine:** 3 views

- AP
- LATERAL (AP and LAT views should be centered on L3, and use proper collimation)
- L5-S1 SPOT (centered and coned to L5-S1 level with beam straight through disc)
  Please label if performed upright or supine.

**Surgical/Neurosurgeon follow-up:** 2 or 3 views

- Post-op – **Center on hardware.**
- AP
- LATERAL Centered at hardware (if hardware is L4-L5-S1, “normal lateral” and lateral spot centered at hardware)
- AP Spot/Sacral view (if requested) - do AP with 30 deg. Cephalad for L5-S1 spot.

**Special views: Obtain only if requested** (Flex/Extension may be done as individual exam see below)

*Note: When a 7 view L-spine is requested, please consult with Radiologist unless ordered by a spine surgeon.*

- **OBLIQUES**
- **AP, FLEXION AND EXTENSION** (3 VIEW IF PATIENT DOES NOT HAVE COMPARISONS)
- **FLEXION AND EXTENSION** (2 VIEW IF PATIENT HAS COMPARISONS)
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