

FOCUSSED SPINAL EXAMINATION NOTES

1. Impairment by any cause: alcohol, medications, substance abuse, injury or illness.
2. Is patient able to concentrate on physical exam and able to easily identify light touch on distal extremities with eyes closed?
3. Numbness, tingling, weakness.
4. Complaint of 'midline' pain or pain on palpation.
5. A patient not clearable by these NEXUS criteria has a small but significant chance of cervical spine fracture.
6. If possible, consult a physician before this final test. This is an additional WEMSI criterion, which was NOT part of the NEXUS study.
7. NOTE: Remember to assess LUMBAR and THORACIC spine for injuries – a suspicion of injury here requires full spinal immobilisation.

