

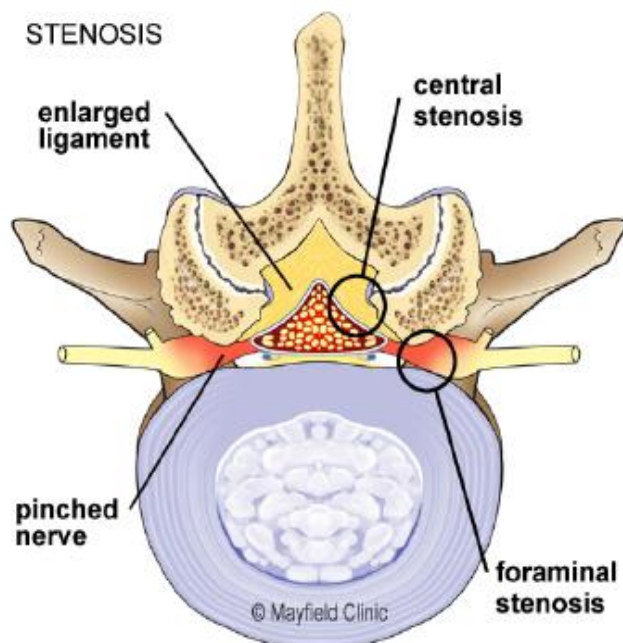
Coding Talk...

To Code or Not To Code

Radiculopathy vs. Myelopathy

Document rationale for treatment modalities:

- PT
- Medications- PO or Epidural/Facet Joint injections
- Surgical Intervention



In spinal stenosis, bone spurs, enlarged facet joints and a bulging disc constrict the nerve root canals causing compression and entrapment of the spinal nerves; also called lateral or foraminal stenosis. Central stenosis occurs when the central spinal canal is constricted with enlarged ligament and bony overgrowth, causing compression of the spinal cord and cauda equina.

Please Specify Acuity of Symptoms and Findings:

Please confirm radiologic findings and diagnostic studies in the H&P and Progress note/ Operative report as:

- **Radiculopathy**- (Compression of spinal nerve root)

Includes: Presence of pain, radiating down arms/ and or legs, numbness and weakness

- **Myelopathy**- (Compression of Spinal Cord) - Also identified as central compression.

Includes: Ataxia, bowel or bladder dysfunction, loss of coordination, heaviness in extremities, loss of fine motor skills, and paralysis.

Document Underlying etiology for same:

- Due to Spinal Stenosis
- Degenerative Disc Disease
- Ankylosing Spondylitis
- Paget's Disease
- Spondylosis/Spondylolisthesis
- Traumatic Injury/ Fractures
- Vascular Claudication
- Other Etiology