

A 70 year old man presents to A&E with severe L sided colicky abdominal and loin pain. It was of sudden onset and started 2 hours ago. He has no significant PMH but has been increasingly unwell over the last couple of months. He is currently on NSAIDs for neck pain and iron for anaemia., both of which have been started in the last few weeks. Over the past few days he noticed that he is having problems walking, upstairs in particular and his legs gave way a few times causing him to fall. He has also been c/o tingling sensation and numbness in his feet.

O/E he is slim, pale looking, you notice that he walks with a very careful gait even for someone in severe pain. Abdomen is soft but his left side is very tender, as is his loin. His UA shows blood +++, protein +++ no WCC no nitrites.

What is the most likely cause of his back pain, what should be your investigation of choice to investigate that? 2 points

What 3 simple blood tests would you perform in A&E to further investigate his other complaints and why? 6 points

You performed a Cspine X-ray. What is the most significant abnormality? 1 point
What is the most likely diagnosis in this patient, linking all the above? 1 point

