ATAXIA/IMBALANCE/FALLING REFERRAL GUIDELINE

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HIGH RISK

SUGGESTED EMERGENT CONSULTATION

SYMPTOMS AND LABS

Less than 1 month of imbalance, ataxia or repeated falls or rapid progression of symptoms

EXAM:

Ataxia, muscle weakness, hyperreflexia, sensory loss, nystagmus or dysconjugate gaze

LABS/IMAGING:

Forward test results performed to date

MODERATE RISK

SUGGESTED CONSULTATION OR CO-MANAGEMENT

SYMPTOMS AND LABS

Greater than 1 month of imbalance, ataxia, or falling

Second opinion request

EXAM:

Ataxia, muscle weakness, sensory loss, nystagmus or dysconjugate gaze

LABS:

Forward test results performed to date

LOW RISK

SUGGESTED ROUTINE CARE

SYMPTOMS AND LABS

3rd or 4th opinion- Unless change in clinical status

Chronic diagnosis without recent change

EXAM:

Normal or chronic unchanged findings

SUGGESTED PREVISIT WORKUP

PT consultation for safety ASAP.

Send to ER if sudden onset of symptoms

SUGGESTED WORKUP

PT consultation for safety ASAP

SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT

PT consultation for safety

CLINICAL PEARLS

Very often after neurologic evaluation and diagnosis the imbalance persists. Early PT evaluation and therapy for safety is of paramount importance.



These clinical practice guidelines describe generally recommended evidence-based interventions for the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases or conditions. The guidelines are: (i) not considered to be entirely inclusive or exclusive of all methods of reasonable care that can obtain or produce the same results, and are not a statement of the standard of medical care; (ii) based on information available at the time and may not reflect the most current evidenced-based literature available at subsequent times; and (iii) not intended to substitute for the independent professional judgment of the responsible clinician(s). No set of guidelines can address the individual variation among patients or their unique needs, nor the combination of resources available to a particular community, provider or healthcare professional. Deviations from clinical practice guidelines thus may be appropriate based upon the specific patient circumstances.