

# Thoracolumbar Spine Protocol

The protocol below represents a full Thoracolumbar spine exam. There is significant variation depending on the clinical question and clinician preference. It is highly suggested to acquire at last one post contrast series with fat saturation if contrast is administered. It is also highly suggested to acquire one series in the dorsal plane, typically a T2 or STIR. For scanning technique, see the [Thoracolumbar Spine MRI Guide](#)

**Disclaimer:** Please keep in mind any parameters, positioning, or coil selections listed are meant to serve as a guideline, your particular scanner specifications and coil set may vary, necessitating different parameters than those listed.

Position: Supine

Coil: Flex coil, Quad Knee, Spine Coil, or Knee Coil

Parameters:

- FOV: Sm (18cm) Med (24cm) Lg (32cm)
- Resolution: 0.6mm x 0.8mm
- Slice Thickness: 2-3mm
- Averages/NEX: 4

**Sagittal T2 Lumbar**  
**Sagittal T2 Thoracic**  
**Sagittal STIR ROI**  
**Sagittal T1 ROI**  
**Axial T2 ROI**  
**Axial T1 ROI**  
**Contrast**  
**Sagittal T1 ROI**  
**Axial T1 ROI**

Optional Sequences

3D Myelogram  
HASTE Myelogram  
Multi-echo GRE

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