**Concerning symptoms?**
- Fever >101°F
- Cytopenia
- Extreme pain with night awakening
- Unable to walk

**Well appearing**
- Isolated back pain without other signs of arthritis
- Mechanical back pain (pain worse with activity and improved with rest)
- History of trauma or injury

**Red flags that likely indicate rheumatologic etiology for back pain:**
- Inflammatory back pain (pain or stiffness in the morning that is improved after activity)
- Morning stiffness
- History of inflammatory bowel disease or psoriasis
- Family history of ankylosing spondylitis
- Abnormal labs (HLA-B27 positive, increased ESR, CRP)
- Swollen joints, decreased joint range of motion
- Abnormal X-ray (sacroiliitis, erosion, chronic nonbacterial osteomyelitis [CNO])
- MRI (if doing consider doing with IV gadolinium contrast) showing synovitis or sacroiliitis

**Consider additional imaging and/or consult orthopedics/sports medicine**

**Refer to Rheumatology**