

## Compression Fractures

Most compression fractures cause a wedge shape to the vertebral body.

However, sometimes we see the anterior, middle and posterior body collapse simultaneously creating a flattened shape to the segment. This type of fracture is referred to as universal, flattened, pancake or vertebral plana. This pattern represents an implosion of the segment due to a lack of sufficient bone (osteoporosis), or from tumor replacement (especially metastasis and multiple myeloma). Since the non-osteoporotic causes can kill the patient, it is imperative to perform additional tests to determine the exact cause. Two options exist: bone scan and a complete blood panel (my preference), or MRI with fat suppressed images such as STIR.

