

When Should I Call 911

So, when do you call 911, when it is a cervical disc either compressing the spinal cord or nerves, in a true emergency. I will give you some indicators, and I have spoken about them before. If you notice that you are having significant lower extremity weakness where your feet feel wobbly and you are having difficulty walking, and/or you suddenly notice that you are having some difficulty controlling your bowel, your bladder, you have to rush to the bathroom. When you wipe yourself after a bowel movement, the sensation is abnormal. Those are emergencies. Those require urgent medical care. Sometimes, I am asked, I am having left arm pain. I never assume that it is a cervical herniated disc. One always has to assume that it is a more serious condition, and in this case, the distinction between a heart attack and a herniated disc affecting the nerves in the left arm, the arm that is usually involved with a myocardial infarction or heart attack, can be difficult to distinguish, certainly difficult to distinguish without a full examination by your physician. I, for one, would never consider giving a patient even medication for left arm pain unless I or someone I trust examine them. These are the warning signs; difficulty with lower extremities, difficulty with bowel or bladder, weakness in the lower extremity and left arm pain that seems to simulate and can simulate a heart attack. Those are when we call the 911s.

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