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Surgery not an option for David Wright, at least not now, as Mets third baseman visits spinal expert

BY KRISTIE ACKERT

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David Wright plays in only eight games for the Mets this season.

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Looking for answers to heal his ailing back, David Wright has headed to California to work more closely with renowned spinal surgeon Dr. Robert Watkins. The Mets' third baseman was **diagnosed with spinal stenosis** and has been shut down from baseball activities for at least a week.

"After consulting with our doctors, we decided we would back him off and have him fly to California to see Dr. Watkins and more importantly work with Dr. Watkins' physical therapy personnel. So he will be out there for the next week," Sandy Alderson said Monday.

HARPER: METS, DAVID WRIGHT SEEKING BACK UP IN CALIFORNIA

"With respect to the prognosis, I am hopeful that with this week of rest he will be able to resume his progression, but realistically what we will have to do is wait two or three days and reassess things once he's been seen the PTs out there and presumably by Dr. Watkins as well."

Alderson added that this should give the Mets a clearer picture of Wright's injury, and also an idea if they need a contingency plan for their struggling lineup for the rest of the season.

"I think there does come a time when we have to consider that. I think we'll know more in the next two or three or four days," Alderson said of looking for a more permanent third base alternative. "Honestly, until three or four days ago, I thought this was going to be a very temporary situation.

"But as we continue to have setbacks, you have to kind of reassess how to go forward, but I think we're a handful of days away from hopefully knowing something to give us a better and more concrete idea of when he will be back."

The Mets had consulted Watkins when Wright was initially diagnosed with the back ailment, which is a narrowing of the spinal column that carries the nerves. This will be the first time Wright is examined by Watkins'



TODD KIRKLAND/AP

David Wright experiences lower back pain while rehabbing from a hamstring injury.

personnel in person, however. Alderson said that surgery is not being discussed at this time and that the doctors feel this is a condition that can be managed.

With Wright out, the Mets are trying to manage internally, but Alderson indicated that he is looking at options outside the organization as well.

“Offensively we’ve been challenged now for a period of time...so we continue to look inside the organization for someone who can give us a lift. We will and have been looking outside the organization as well,” Alderson said.

“This is not the time of year when most clubs are looking to make deals. Typically the players who become available now are designated for assignment or what have you. There is usually a reason they have been designated for assignment.

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“So while yes, we continue to canvas what is available, I think realistically we have to get the job done with what we have, at least in the near term.”

On Monday the Mets called up Danny Muno, who started at third and went 0-for-4 in [a 6-3 Memorial Day win](#) over the Phillies just after arriving in New York at 1 a.m from Triple-A Las Vegas. Alderson said that calling up shortstop prospect Matt Reynolds is also a possibility.

“We still have a number of internal options,” Alderson said. “Reynolds is definitely one of those.”

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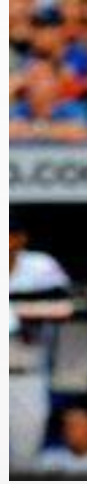
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