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**Lakers' Walton to miss at least six weeks with pinched nerve**

Posted Nov 17 2009 7:09AM

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)** -- Lakers forward Luke Walton has been diagnosed with a pinched nerve.

Walton was examined Monday by back specialist Dr. Robert Watkins in Los Angeles. The Lakers say Walton is expected to be out at least six weeks.

Kobe Bryant practiced Monday, a day after he made an early exit in the Lakers' 101-91 loss to the Houston Rockets. He revealed after the game he aggravated a groin injury in the first quarter that he sustained a week ago against New Orleans.

Pau Gasol, who has missed the first 10 games because of a strained right hamstring, practiced Monday and coach Phil Jackson said he's hopeful Gasol could return this week.

The Lakers host the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.



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