

Wheels: An e-mail from Ann says, “I am a novice at this car business! But I’m desperate! My car began to jump as I pulled from a stop, several times, each time. All this on the first day and the second day it was fine. But a couple days later it started again. I thought it might be the transmission and since my mechanic doesn’t work on that, I took the car to a dealer. They called it a lunge and a misfire. They performed an emissions tune up and replaced plug wires. Everything was fine until late fall, and it began again – not every day – but consistent every few days. One evening my husband was driving and noticed the lights dimming; alternator, he said. We took it to the mechanic and he changed the alternator, rotated the tires and changed the oil, which we have done faithfully. Then when he road checked it, he didn’t think he would make it back. I think my mechanic has no idea what it is. He is a trustworthy guy and I have never stumped him before. I hate to go back to the dealer. It surely can’t need another tune up? This has been a great car until this. Any thoughts about what it might be, how I proceed from here, and where do I take it?”

Halderman: It could be a fuel pump, fuel injectors, or even an ignition coil or ignition module. If your technician is unable to test these components or does not know what to do next, I suggest that you take it to another technician or to a dealer. At least you got the vehicle repaired at the dealer the first time. Sometimes this is less expensive in the long run compared to having many parts replaced that do not fix the vehicle.

