

Wheels: An e-mail from Craig says, “My engine speed has been fluctuating up and then down while driving. The check engine came on so I had the dealer check it out. They are telling me that through the computer check that the code P1320 IGN signal primary is coming up with no specific cylinder found. They recommended replacing all 6 ignition coils for around \$500. I did not do that. However, the same problem has come up again as I have been driving it. My question is why can't they look at the coils and determine which one it could be? Won't the bad one have carbon or some indication that doesn't look right? Am I hurting the engine by driving it? Should I have all coils replaced? By the way, the car has 42,000 miles on it and is, of course, out of warranty. If this started occurring before 40,000 miles, would the memory in the computer show this? Any help would be appreciated as the lease runs out in a couple of weeks and I am thinking about purchasing the car. Thanks.”

Halderman: The code indicates an engine speed input signal problem and this would not likely be caused by an ignition coil fault. The most likely cause is due to a defective crankshaft position sensor or a sensor wiring problem. A misfire could cause damage to the catalytic converter so I suggest that the problem be corrected as soon as possible. A thorough visual inspection by an experienced technician is needed. The sensor should be tested using a lab or digital storage oscilloscope (DSO) to verify the fault.

