



PREHOSPITAL SPINAL CARD

Cut Along Line

SELECTIVE SPINE IMMOBILISATION CRITERIA

Positive Mechanism Of Injury With:

- Unconscious or altered conscious state
- Drug or alcohol affected
- Significant distracting injury
- History of bone disease
- Age >65 yrs or <5 yrs
- Communication difficulty
- Spinal column pain or bony tenderness
- Neurological deficit (see overleaf)

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If patient meets the above criteria, fully immobilize the whole spine with a C- Collar and a Vacuum Mattress

Fold Line

NEUROLOGICAL SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| • Bradycardia | • Paralysis |
| • Hypotension | • Heaviness |
| • Respiratory difficulty | • Numbness |
| • Diaphragmatic breathing | • Pripism |
| • Respiratory arrest | • Spinal column pain |
| • Heat loss | • Deformity |

NEUROLOGICAL SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Motor Assessment



Patient's hands squeeze Officer's hands



Patient pushes feet against Officer's hands

Sensory Assessment



Compare soft touch of forehead to posterior hands



Compare soft touch of forehead to under knees

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Instructions For Use

1. Fold card in half, cut out along black line and laminate.
2. Use this card as a guideline only. If a conflict with your Organisation exists, follow your Organisations guidelines in preference to this card. RAPP Australia accepts no liability for using this card. Users of this card take all responsibility for it's use.
3. This card should be used in conjunction with the manual '*Photographic Guide To Prehospital Spine Care*' which is freely downloadable at www.neann.com/psc.pdf

Selective Spine Immobilisation Studies

1. Multicenter prospective validation of prehospital clinical spinal clearance criteria
Domeier
J of Trauma 53(October): 744-750, 2002.
2. Paramedic use of a spinal injury clearance algorithm reduces spinal immobilization in the out-of-hospital setting
Muhr, et al
Prehosp Emerg Care 1999 Jan-Mar; 3(1):1-6
3. Can an Out-of-Hospital Cervical Spine Clearance Protocol Identify IAll Patients With Injuries? An Argument for Selective Immobilisation
Stroh, et al
Annals Of Emerg Med June 2001: 606
4. Spinal Cord Injury without Radiographic Abnormality: Results of the National Emergency X-Radiography Utilization Study in Blunt Cervical Trauma
Hendey, et al
Journal Of Trauma 53(1):1-4, 2002
5. Prospective performance assessment of an out-of-hospital protocol for selective spine immobilization using clinical spine clearance criteria.
Domeier, et al
Ann Emerg Med. 2005 Aug; 46(2):123-31
6. The Canadian C spine rule for radiography in alert & stable trauma patients
Stiell, et al
JAMA 286(15):1803-1817, 2001
7. The Canadian C-Spine rule vs the NEXUS low risk criteria in patients with trauma
Stiell, et al
New Eng Med 349:2510-2518 Dec 2003

Australian Recommendations For Full Spine Immobilisation

1. Towards the Prevention of Spinal Cord Injury
Australian Menzies Foundation Technical Report 1987
2. Review Of Trauma And Emergency Services Final Report 1999
Acute Health Services Department Of Human Services Victoria Australia
3. Management of Acute Neurotrauma In Rural And Remote Locations
Royal Australasian College Of Surgeons 2000