



### Small Group Teaching – Cervical Spine

1. Your Hospital Executive has asked you to develop a guideline to allow ED nurses to assess and clear Cspines in trauma patients who arrive in Cervical collars.
  - a. Outline your approach
  
2. A 24 year old woman is brought into a trauma bay in your emergency department after a fall from a horse. She has a hard collar on and her head is taped to the hard spine board she rode in on. It is immediately apparent that although she is GCS 15, she is unable to move any of her limbs and is developing respiratory distress.
  - Her BP is 80/50
  - She starts to vomit
  - a. How would you assess and manage this patient?
  - b. Other important issues:
    - i. What is the difference between primary and secondary spinal cord injury?
    - ii. What is the most likely cause of hypotension in a major trauma patient with possible spinal cord injury?
    - iii. What is the difference between neurogenic and spinal shock?

<http://lifeinthefastlane.com/2012/03/trauma-tribulation-016/>

<http://lifeinthefastlane.com/education/ccs/cervical-spine-assessment/>

3. How do you immobilise a 2yo child with suspected Cspine injury? How do you clear their Cspine?

[http://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline\\_index/Cervical\\_Spine\\_Injury/](http://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Cervical_Spine_Injury/)

### Cervical spine xrays

For each of the following xrays, please state

1. What/where is the injury?
2. Is this a stable or unstable injury?
3. What Neurology (if any) you may expect with this injury?







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RAY









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