

The Canadian C-Spine Rule

For alert (GCS=15) and stable trauma patients where cervical spine injury is a concern

1. Any High-Risk Factor Which Mandates Radiography?

Age \geq 65 years
or
Dangerous mechanism*
or
Paresthesias in extremities

No

Yes

2. Any Low-Risk Factor Which Allows Safe Assessment of Range of Motion?

Simple rearend MVC**
or
Sitting position in ED
or
Ambulatory at any time
or
Delayed onset of neck pain***
or
Absence of midline c-spine tenderness

No

Radiography

Unable

Yes

3. Able to Actively Rotate Neck?

45° left and right

Able

No Radiography

* Dangerous Mechanism:

- fall from elevation \geq 3 feet / 5 stairs
- axial load to head, e.g. diving
- MVC high speed ($>$ 100km/hr), rollover, ejection
- motorized recreational vehicles
- bicycle collision

** Simple Rearend MVC Excludes:

- pushed into oncoming traffic
- hit by bus / large truck
- rollover
- hit by high speed vehicle

*** Delayed:

- i.e. not immediate onset of neck pain