Initial Evaluation of a Patient at Risk for Cervical Spine Injury

**At Risk Group:**
- Altered LOC/Amnesic to event
- s/s Spinal Cord Injury
- High Energy Mechanisms
- Traumatic Injury Above Clavicles
- Falls >10ft or 2-3 x pt height
- FX of other levels of the spine

**Nexus Criteria:**
Does the patient have any:
- Midline tenderness
- Altered level of alertness
- Intoxication
- Focal neurological deficits
- Distracting injury

---

**Obtunded patient at High Risk for C-Spine injury** (unable to complete confrontational exam)

**Maintain or place in C-Collar**

**Obtain CT Spine**

---

**Assess range of motion**

- No to all
- Yes to any

**Maintain or place in C-Collar**

**Re-examine**

- Normal
  - Pt < age 8
    - Obtain C-Spine AP/lateral
  - Pt ≥ age 8
    - Add odontoid view in cooperative pt

**Ref to Neurosurgery & Orthopaedics**

**Still has pain**

**Neuro, Ortho, Surgery, ED, or PICU attending**

**Clinically Clear C-Spine**

**Discharge with: C-collar**
- Pain control F/U
- Neurosurgery/Orthopedic clinic

**No Injury**

---

**Unable to obtain adequate films or concerning clinical mechanism**

**Obtain CT C-spine**

**+ finding**

**Refer to Neurosurgery (Ortho as appropriate)**