DAYTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

DISCLAIMER: This Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) generally describes a recommended course of treatment for patients with the identified health needs. This CPG is not presented and should not be used as a substitute for the advice of a licensed independent practitioner, as individual patients may require different treatments from those specified, and guidelines cannot address the unique needs of each patient. Dayton Children’s shall not be liable for direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages related to the use of this CPG.
Trauma Cervical Spine Evaluation & Clearance Pathway

Legend

(1) As per NEXUS and CCR, child must be conscious, awake, alert, and communicative ≥ 3 years old to be assessed for C-spine clearance by physician No drugs/ intoxication

(2) High index of suspicion (high energy transfer) includes but is not limited to:
- a fall from an elevation ≥3 ft or 5 stairs
- an axial load to the head (e.g., diving)
- a motor vehicle collision at high speed (>50 miles /hr) or with rollover or ejection
- a collision involving a motorized recreational vehicle
- a bicycle collision

(3) Consider CT and Trauma Consult as initial imaging if high clinical concern such as localizing neurologic deficit

Definition
c-collar = hard collar (Miami J)

Patient with possible acute cervical spine injury

Patient with altered mental status, or not reliable related to age or disability (1) or high index of suspicion (2)?

Yes

Maintain in C-Collar

Maintain in cervical collar obtain lateral c-spine film in collar (3)

No

Patient alert and cooperative with exam?

Yes

Does patient have any neurologic deficits?

Yes

Lateral C-Spine film (or CT if done) abnormal? Or Neuro deficits? Or Altered Mental Status?

Yes

Trauma Consult

No

Are films normal per Radiologist read?

Yes

Place in Miami J:
Follow up in 4 – 7 days with Neurosurgery
Provide Cervical Collar instruction sheet and handbook
Document clinical and radiographic assessment/plan

No


Is patient: uncooperative with exam? OR complaining of pain? OR tender on palpation? OR with tenderness and pain on active range of motion? OR significant distracting injury?

Yes

Maintain in cervical collar obtain lateral c-spine film in collar (3)

No

Are films normal per Radiologist read?

No

Maintain in cervical collar obtain lateral c-spine film in collar (3)

Does patient have any neurologic deficits?

No

Is patient alert and cooperative with exam?

No

Maintain in C-Collar

Patient alert and cooperative with exam?

Yes

Does patient have any neurologic deficits?

Yes

Lateral C-Spine film (or CT if done) abnormal? Or Neuro deficits? Or Altered Mental Status?

Yes

Trauma Consult

No

Are films normal per Radiologist read?

No

Maintain in cervical collar obtain lateral c-spine film in collar (3)

Yes

Place in Miami J:
Follow up in 4 – 7 days with Neurosurgery
Provide Cervical Collar instruction sheet and handbook
Document clinical and radiographic assessment/plan
Cervical collars are used to treat a neck injury. There are two types of cervical collars:

_____ **Soft foam collar** - Your physician has determined your condition is muscular. A soft foam collar may help with your discomfort until your muscles have time to heal. It should be worn until you follow up with your family medical doctor.

_____ **Hard cervical collar (Miami-J®)** – If your physician has prescribed a hard cervical collar, it is because your physician has determined **either**:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Your child has the following serious injury:</th>
<th>A serious injury is possible and more time is needed for your child’s neck to heal.</th>
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<td>and his/her neck must remain securely in the collar.</td>
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**Care instructions:**
- Have your child wear the Miami-J collar at all times (including bed time).
- Your child must continue to wear the hard collar for ____________ weeks.
- Call the neurosurgery clinic on the first weekday at 937-641-3461 to schedule an appointment for ____________ days / weeks from now.

Look at the Miami-J patient handbook for tips on:
- Bathing
- Cleaning the collar
- Removing the chest plate while eating or drinking
- And more