C-Spine Clearance Algorithm for those 0–10 years

**GCS ≥ 14**

- **Yes**
  - Assess and examine pt. for spinal cord neurologic deficits.
  - NO—Neurologic Deficits
    - NO—Neurologic Deficits
      - Image Spine per protocol: Consult Spine Team
      - *At any point during clinical examination if a positive finding is elicted, the examination is terminated, c-collar replaced and spine imaging is obtained.*
      1. Assess pt. for subjective complaints of neck pain
      2. Remove c-collar and manually stabilize neck
      3. Assess neck for cervical tenderness (midline and lateral)
      4. If NO tenderness elicited and NO complaint of neck pain: have pt. voluntarily flex and extend neck
      5. If no complaints of pain upon flexion and extension: have pt. voluntarily rotate neck 90 degrees side to side
  - YES—Neurologic Deficits
    - Image Spine per protocol: Consult Spine Team
    - AP and Lateral Plain films of the cervical spine (portable films are okay): for patients 9-11 years odontoid view should be obtained.

- **No**
  - NO Head CT ordered
    - CT Occiput to C3 + AP & Lateral Plain Films; for patients 9-11 years odontoid view should be obtained.
  - Head CT ordered
    - CT or X-ray Abnormal
      - Leave Collar On
      - Consult Spine Service

**ABNORMAL**

- Leave Collar On
- Consult Spine Service

**NORMAL & Adequate (visualized C1-T1)**

- Leave Collar on until mental status improvement & patient now asymptomatic
- Reexamine patient, and proceed with clearance. Note: Date & Time in Chart

**Special Considerations:**

- **SCIWORA=Spinal Cord Injury Without Radiologic Abnormality.** Consult Neurosurgery if patient remains symptomatic or has history of neurologic deficit with a NORMAL Cervical CT.
- Patient intoxicated with ETOH or other drugs consider no imaging, patient to remain in c-collar and clinical reassessment when intoxication clears.
- If patient is to remain in c-collar for >24 hours change to Miami J.

**MRI Abnormal Management per Spine Specialist**

**MRI Normal**

- Remove Collar or allow collar for comfort
  - Consult Spine Specialist
  - Note: Date & Time in Chart

Approved: 2008
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