

The Ohio State University Medical Center Evidence-Based Practice Clinical Resources

Clinician's Guide to Cervical Spine Trauma

Ronald J. Wisneski, MD

Sally Betz, RN, MS

Jeffrey Caterino, MD

Michael Luttrull, MD

August 31, 2011

Second Edition

Contents

- C-Spine Clearance in the Evaluable Patient
- C-Spine Clearance in the Non-Evaluable Patient

Quality Measures

- No missed clinically significant C-spine injuries
- Number of spine consults
- Appropriate use of MRI studies
- Patient satisfaction outcomes measures

Note: Data are collected in the Trauma Registry

Disclaimer: Clinical practice guidelines and algorithms at The Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC) are standards that are intended to provide general guidance to clinicians. Patient choice and clinician judgment must remain central to the selection of diagnostic tests and therapy. OSUMC's guidelines and algorithms are reviewed periodically for consistency with new evidence; however, new developments may not be represented.

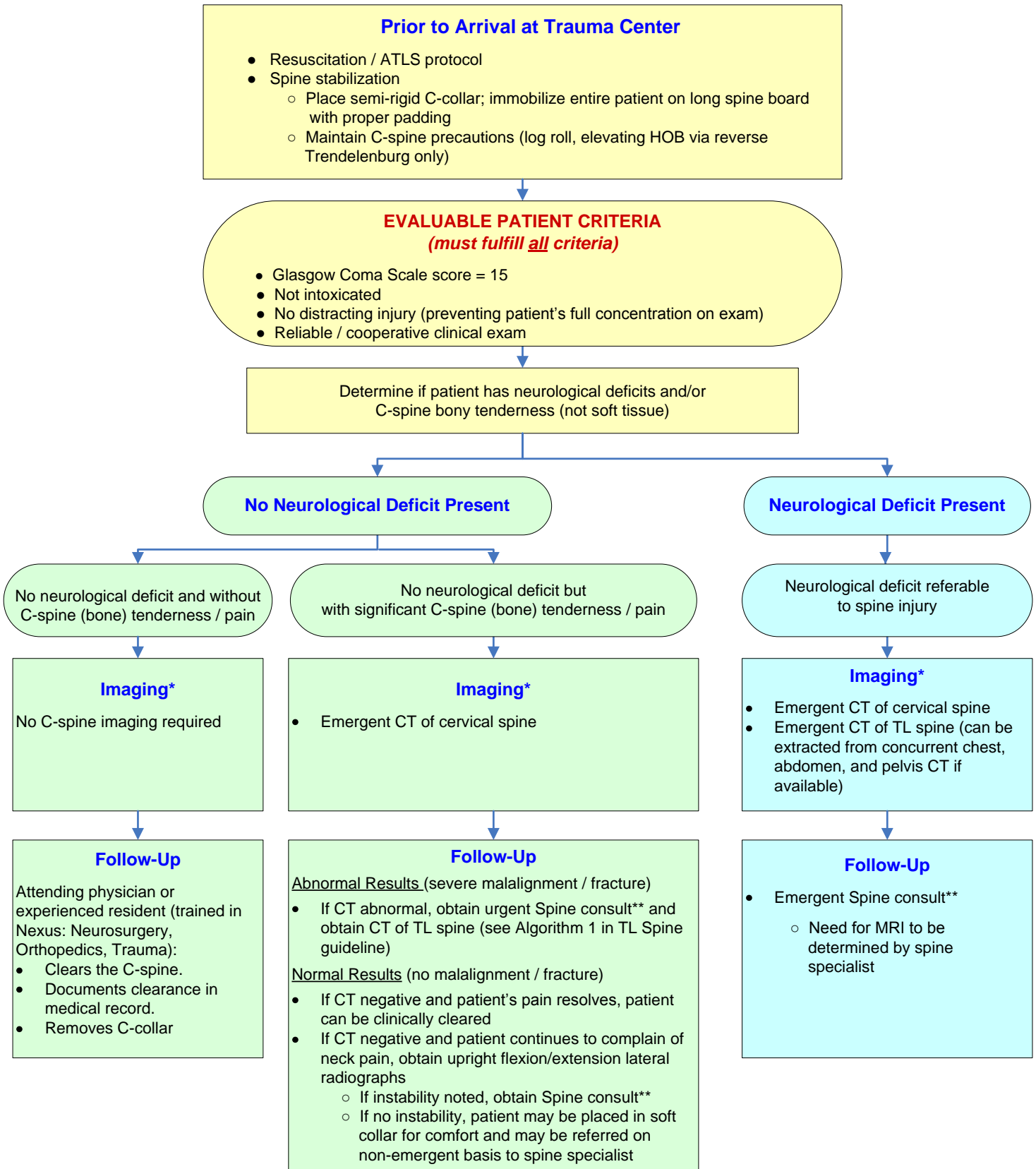
Copyright © 2011. The Ohio State University Medical Center. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from The Ohio State University Medical Center.

If you have questions, please contact
Quality and Operations Improvement at
QualityUpdates@osumc.edu or 293-8430.



ALGORITHM 1: EVALUABLE CERVICAL SPINE INJURY PATIENT

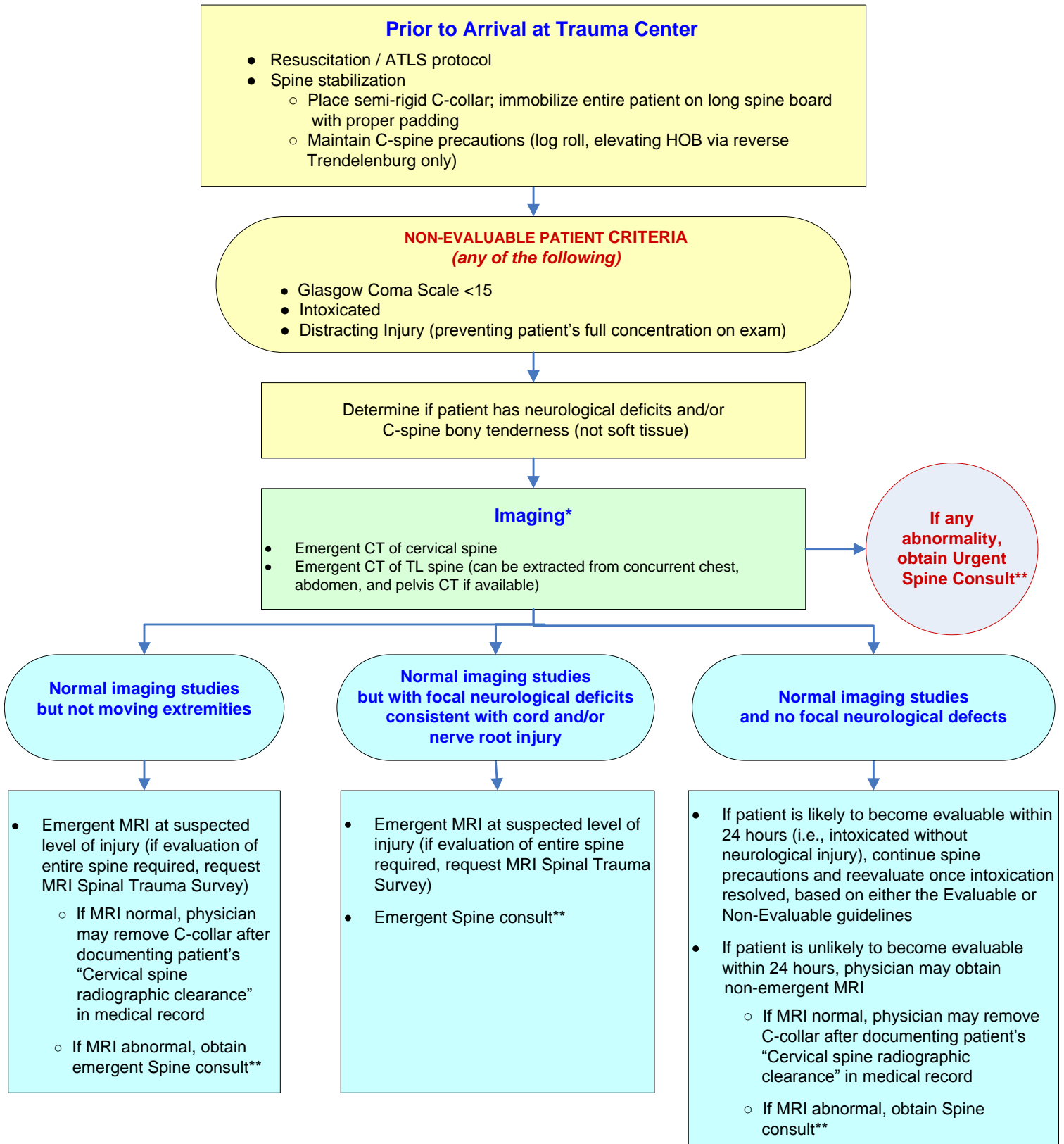
- This algorithm applies to patients meeting Trauma Activation Criteria.
- All blunt trauma patients should be considered as having a cervical spine injury until proven otherwise.



* Determine if thorocolumbar spine (TL spine) imaging is needed, per Thoracolumbar Spine Guideline.

**To determine if patient has neurological deficits, use ASIA Standard Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury, http://www.asia-spinalinjury.org/publications/2006_Classif_worksheet.pdf

- This algorithm applies to patients meeting Trauma Activation Criteria.
- All blunt trauma patients should be considered as having a cervical spine injury until proven otherwise.



* Determine if thorocolumbar spine (TL spine) imaging is needed, per Thoracolumbar Spine Guideline.

**To determine if patient has neurological deficits, use ASIA Standard Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury, http://www.asia-spinalinjury.org/publications/2006_Classif_worksheet.pdf