

# 2024 Cervical Spine Screening Guideline

Start

Concern for c-spine injury?

Yes

## High-risk Factors:

- Mental status: GCS score 3-8, AVPU = U
- Abnormal airway, breathing, or circulation
- Focal Neurological deficits on examination

Yes

Risk of Cervical injury is approximately 12.1%

**Consider CT**

No

## Moderate risk factors

- Mental status: GCS 9-14, AVPU = V or P
- Self Reported neck pain or neck tenderness on examination
- Substantial head or torso injury \*\*

Yes

Risk of cervical spine injury is approximately 3%

**Consider plain x-ray**

Recommended: single lateral

No

## No risk factors

Yes

Risk of cervical spine injury is 0.2%

**Consider cervical clearance**

This algorithm does not replace clinical judgment and is not intended to be prescriptive for all patients.

\*\* Substantial injury is defined as an observable injury that is life-threatening, warrants surgical intervention or warrants inpatient observation

SOURCE:

<https://www.aliem.com/pecarn-cervical-spine-injury-prediction-rule-for-injured-children/>