C-Spine Clearance Algorithm

Does the patient have any of the following?
- Mechanism consistent with injury
- Altered mental status
- Tenderness over cervical spine
- Age >65
- Neuro deficits
- Distracting injury
- Obtunded

YES

CT cervical spine

NORMAL

* Tenderness, Pain, or Neurological Sx?

YES

Consult Neurosurgery

ABNORMAL

NO

Drug or alcohol intoxication?

YES

CT cervical spine, ABNORMAL

Trauma attending may remove the collar in obtunded patients with normal CT c-spine.

NO

Clear spine clinically

CT cervical spine

NORMAL

Removal c-collar

ABNORMAL

*Clinical Examination of the C-Spine:
1. Patient is awake & alert*
2. Assess for tenderness over C1-C7
3. Active range of motion of the neck
4. Document exam

*Clinical Examination of the C-Spine: