

Review questions – Spinal Injury

What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of routine spinal protection of all children, young people and adults experiencing trauma compared to selective protection, based on the use of a risk tool/clinical assessment at the scene of the incident/presentation?

What tools are most predictive of spinal injury in people with suspected traumatic spinal injury when trying to exclude spinal cord injury (with or without spinal column injury) or isolated spinal column injury?

What pre-hospital strategies to protect the spine in people with suspected spinal injury are the most clinically and cost effective during transfer from the scene of the incident to acute medical care?

What is the optimal immediate destination of a person at risk of a traumatic spinal column injury?

What is the optimal immediate destination of a person at risk of a traumatic spinal cord injury?

a) What is the diagnostic accuracy of i) X-ray, ii) dynamic fluoroscopy, iii) CT and iv) MRI, for people with spinal cord injury (with or without column injury)?

b) What is the diagnostic accuracy of i) X-ray, ii) dynamic fluoroscopy, iii) CT and iv) MRI, for people with isolated spinal column injury?

For people with clinical signs of spinal injury what are the radiation risks of having a X-ray(s) and/or CT scans?

For people who have clinical signs of traumatic spinal cord or column injury, but who have normal or indeterminate findings on imaging, what is the most clinically and cost effective further imaging strategy?

What is the clinical and cost-effectiveness of emergency closed reduction of cervical facet joint dislocation of the cervical spine?

Is there a benefit of early liaison and referral (within 4 hours) to spinal cord injury centres compared to delayed liaison?

What are the clinical factors associated with a positive outcome after transfer to an SCIC for patients with spinal trauma?

What is the clinical and cost-effectiveness of neuroprotective pharmacological interventions (such as anti-inflammatories, antioxidants and anti-excitotoxins) in people with spinal cord injury during the acute stage?

What are the optimum strategies given in the acute management stage to prevent later neuropathic pain in people with traumatic spinal cord injury?

a) What information and support do people with suspected traumatic spinal cord/column injury and their families want in the early stages after trauma before a definitive diagnosis has been made?

b) What information and support do people with a confirmed traumatic spinal cord/column injury and their families want in the early stages after trauma before transfer to specialist care?

What documentation tool should be routinely used to record baseline neurological function in people with spinal injuries?