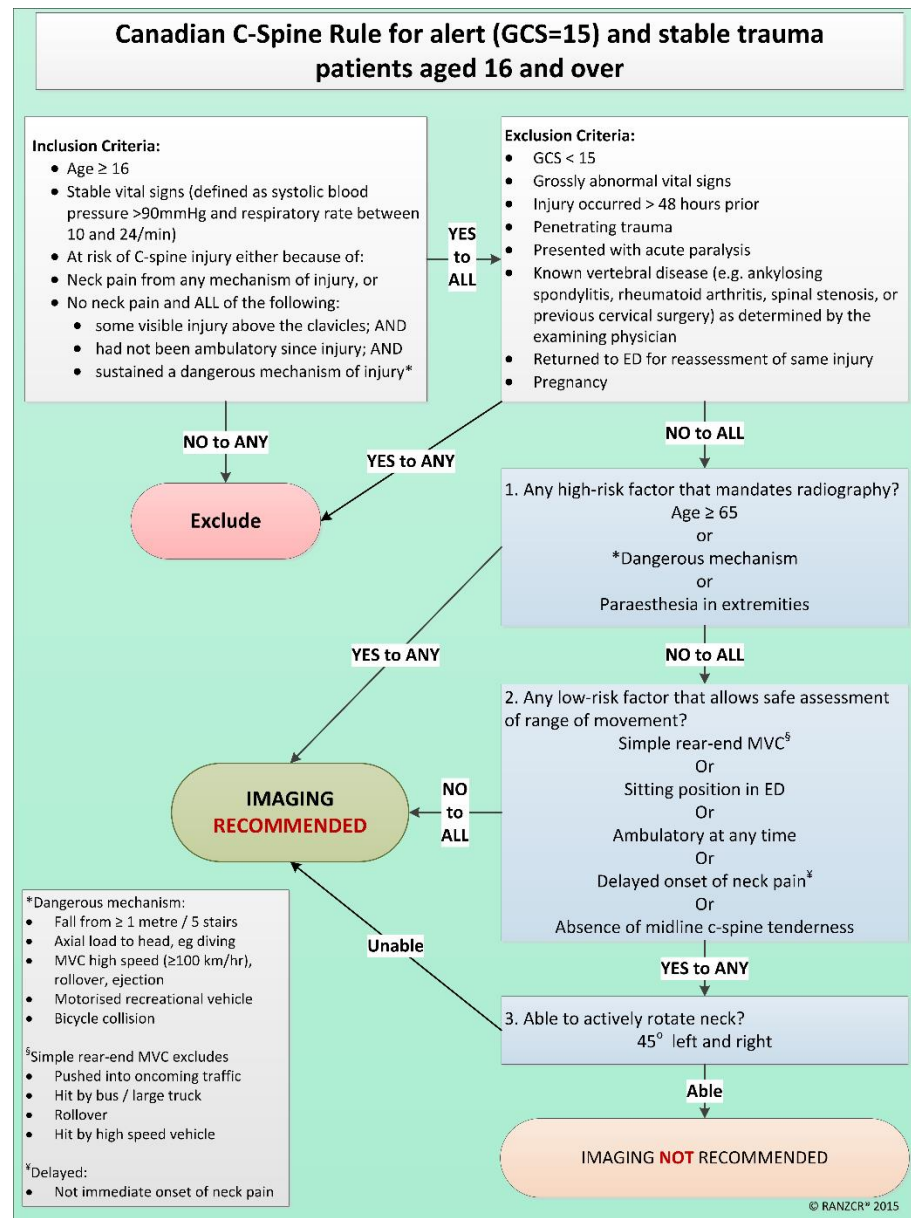


Canadian C-Spine Rule (Paediatrics)

Algorithm:



Summary Statement:

Stiell et al (2001) have developed a highly sensitive CDR with significantly higher specificity than NEXUS for use in patients aged 16 years and over with acute cervical spine trauma. Prior to the development of the Canadian C-Spine Rule (CCSR), the NEXUS criteria constituted the best CDR available to aid decisions about whether or not to perform radiologic imaging in the setting of blunt force trauma and possible cervical spine injury. The CCSR has been shown to have higher specificity than NEXUS and because either CDR can be used in the 16 and over age group, use of the CCSR may be expected to result in less imaging being performed on these older adolescents with cervical spine trauma.

The Canadian C-Spine Rule is a high-performance rule. It can be used safely in the defined population to minimise the volume of cervical spine radiology ordered for blunt head and neck trauma, without missing clinically significant cervical spine injuries. Its use has been validated in a number of other studies, across a variety of patient populations and clinical settings.

References:

Stiell IG, Wells GA, Vandemheen KL, Clement CM, Lesiuk H, De Maio VJ, et al. The Canadian C-Spine Rule for radiography in alert and stable trauma patients. *JAMA*. 2001; 286(15): 1841-8.