

# Acute Spinal Cord injury, assessment/treatment

## How to minimize the chances of permanent spinal cord injury

### ***Third Botswana Spine Care Conference*** ***“Creating a country wide program for the prevention of spine disability”***

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Expert Panel

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# Scenario 1

- A 36 year old male is in a MVA and is on the side of the road. Obvious serious accident
- Multiple injuries
- Bleeding from the head
- Unconscious

You are the first person on the scene.

What should be done to avoid a spinal cord injury??

# Scenario 1

- A 36 year old male is in a MVA and brought to the emergency room.  
Obvious serious accident
- Multiple injuries
- Bleeding from the head
- Unconscious

You are the triage doctor or nurse.

What should be done to determine whether the patient is at risk for a spinal cord injury??

# Scenario 3

- The next patient is presenting to the ER is a 36 year old male brought in by a family member after a major MVA.
- Bleeding from the head
- Conscious and alert
- No obvious neck injury but complains of neck pain

You are the triage doctor or nurse.

What should be done to determine whether the patient is at risk for a spinal cord injury??

# Scenario 4

- 64 year old woman presents with long history of neck pain.
- Recent onset of leg weakness and incoordination with bladder incontinence.

I am working in the outpatient clinic of a hospital.

Is this patient at risk for a spinal cord injury?

If so what should I do to prevent a spinal cord injury?