

# The occasional C-spine Xray

Karl Stobbe, MD

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## C-spine x-ray checklist (adults)

### A. Lateral c-spine

- Fig. 1
- keep hard collar on.
- adequacy of film - see all of C7, top of T1. If "No" -continue anyway. Repeat films if no fracture.
- Alignment
  - Line 1 - continues along ant. odontoid
  - Line 2 - continues along posterior odontoid
  - Line 3 - connects laminae
  - Line 4 - note C1 should not reach this line
- Soft tissue thickness < 5 mm at C2 and <22 mm at C6
- atlanto-odontoid space: 3 mm or less
- Bones - check for fractures. Shape of C3-C7 vertebral body should be approx. the same as the one above and below.

If a fracture is seen - do no further views - immobilize and transfer otherwise remove immobilization to proceed with more views

### B. Odontoid view

- Fig. 2
- Alignment of lateral masses (arrows)
- Odontoid fracture - 3 types shown

### C. PA view

- Fig. 3
- Look for Alignment of spinous processes

### D. Obliques

- Fig. 4
- Useful for unilateral facet dislocations
- Foraminae all intact
- Laminae line up like "shingles on a roof"

## **E. Flexion-extension views**

- for further reassurance if other views normal. Use lat c-spine checklist.
- Some injuries not obvious on initial lateral will be visible on a lateral view.

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**Fig 1**



**Fig. 2**

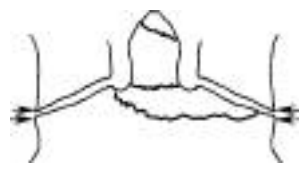


Fig. 3

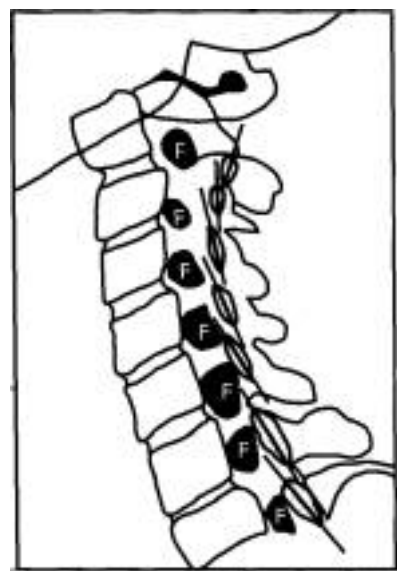


Fig 4

