

Assessment requires patients to be:

- Alert and cooperative
- Not significantly affected by alcohol or recreational drugs
- Not heavily sedated by analgesia or sedatives
- Be developmentally able to engage in the assessment process and maintain focus throughout the assessment

High risk

Any of the following mechanism

- Axial load to the head
 - Ejection from a vehicle
 - Improper restraint in a motor vehicle collision
 - Passenger in a collision of >60km/hr, head on collision, rollover or any accident with a passenger death
 - Pedestrian vs vehicle
 - Fall >3 metres or twice the patient height
 - Kicked by or fall from a horse
 - Substantial torso injury
- OR
- Underlying condition that pre-disposes cervical spine injury

