

Cervical Collar Clearance Protocol

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Oversight:

Trauma Program Operational Process Performance (10/25/2023)

Multidisciplinary Trauma Conference (10/25/2023)

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
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Definitions:

Hyperreflexia, defined by any of the following:

1. Positive Babinski signs
2. 2 beats of clonus
3. Positive Hoffman's reflex:
 - Upper motor neuron lesion from cord compression
 - Is elicited by flipping either the volar or dorsal surfaces of the middle finger & observing the reflex contraction of the thumb and index finger

NEXUS (National Emergency X-Radiography Utilization Study) Criteria, defined by any of the following:

1. Midline C-spine tenderness to palpation
2. Altered mental status
3. Intoxicated
4. Abnormal neurologic exam
5. Distracting injury

Abbreviations:

AS: Ankylosing Spondylitis

C-collar: Cervical Collar

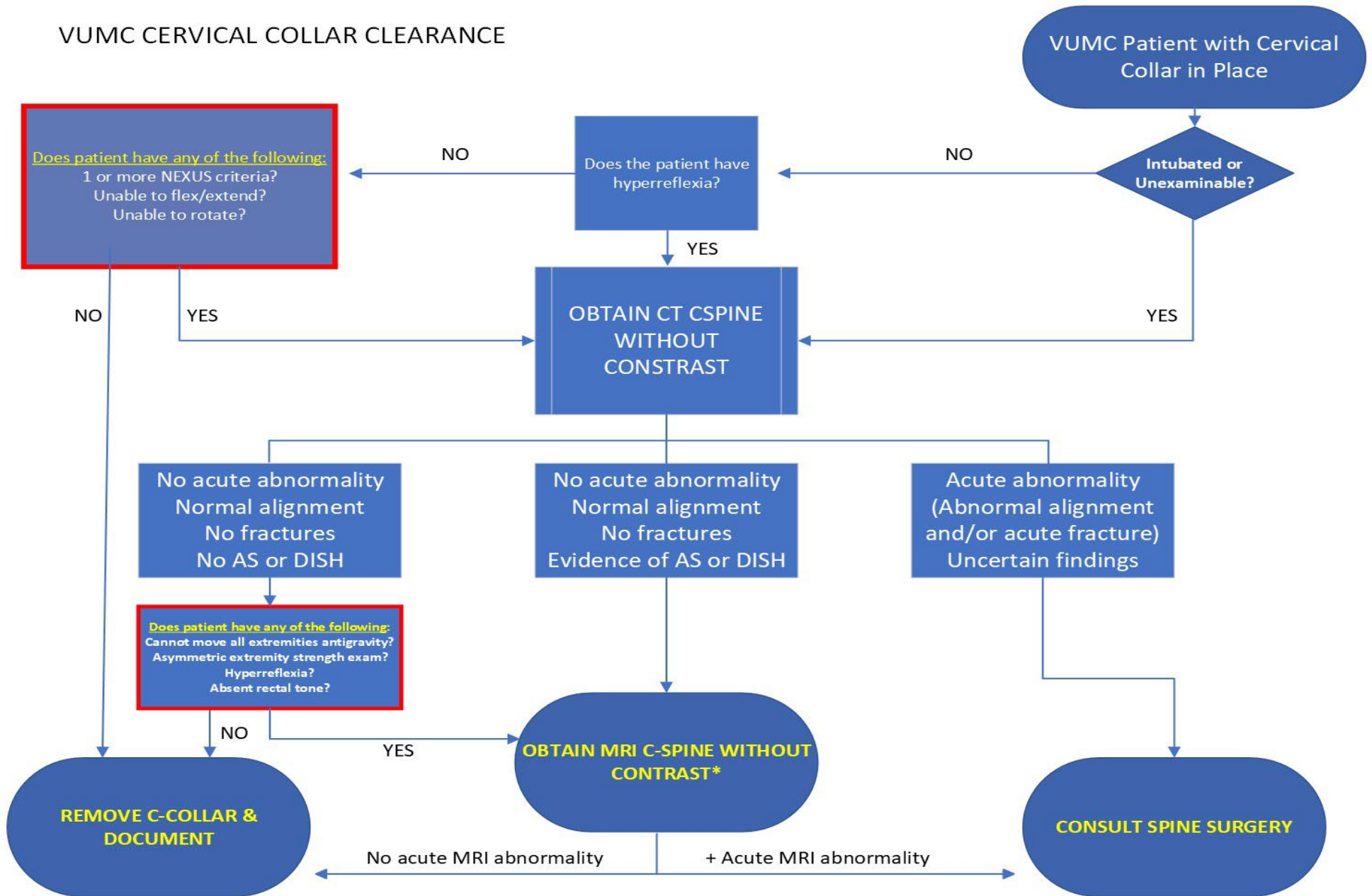
C-spine: Cervical Spine

DISH: Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis

C-Collar Clearance:

1. Cervical Collars to be cleared by PHYSICIANS (all level residents, fellows and attendings) and ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS only.
2. All specialties can follow flowchart below for C-Collar Clearance. Consult to trauma surgery or spine surgery is not needed for clearance.
3. Document cervical collar clearance in eStar

VUMC CERVICAL COLLAR CLEARANCE



*If unable to obtain MRI, obtain upright cervical spine XRs in collar

Key References:

1. Patel MB, Humble SS, Cullinane DC, Day MA, Jawa RS, Devin CJ, Delozier MS, Smith LM, Smith MA, Capella JM, Long AM, Cheng JS, Leath TC, Falck-Ytter Y, Haut ER, Como JJ. Cervical Spine Collar Clearance in the Adult Obtunded Trauma Patient: A Practice Management Guideline from the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. *Journal of Trauma*. 2015;78(2):430-441.
2. Badhiwala JH, Lai CK, Alhazzani W, et al. Cervical spine clearance in obtunded patients after blunt traumatic injury: a systematic review. *Ann Intern Med*. 2015;162(6):429–437.
3. Bush L, Brookshire R, Roche B, et. al. Evaluation of Cervical Spine Clearance by Computed Tomographic Scan Alone in Intoxicated Patient with Blunt Trauma. *JAMA Surg*. 2016;151(9):807-813.