

# Spinal cord injury without radiological abnormality (SCIWORA)

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Cervical hyperextension can occur during a rear impact in a car accident or from a frontal impact to the head. If such a mechanism dissipates a lot of energy, the spinal cord can be damaged even though a cervical radiograph may look normal. Compared with adults, children have a proportionally heavier head and weaker cervical muscles, which together with more elastic spinal ligaments and horizontal facet joints permit displacement without fracture and spontaneous anatomical resolution. A myelopathy can follow a contusion or follow central ischaemia from temporary vertebral artery occlusion. If an older child gives a history of transient paraesthesia, numbness or paralysis, cervical immobilisation should be continued, and - magnetic resonance imaging obtained. Immobilisation of the Part 4, cervical spine can be with blocks and tapes or, if tolerated, a collar. -

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