

RTC passenger

A 17 yr old boy is brought to your department. He was a rear seat passenger behind the driver in a RTC in which there was extensive damage to you car. Also in your department is the driver, who has sustained a pneumothorax. The patient was mobile at scene but has been placed on a spine board. He complains of back pain.

What features would enable you to clear his c-spine without radiographs? (4 marks)

*Awake, alert, sober, neurologically normal, no neck pain or midline tenderness (ATLS)*

On log roll he has tenderness and swelling at L2.

Would you leave him on the spine board or remove it? (1 mark)

*Remove*



What is the name of this fracture with this mechanism? (1 mark)

*Chance fracture*

What are the risks to the patient? (2 marks)

*Potentially unstable spinal fracture*

*Risk of intra-abdominal injury(15%)*

How would you dispose of the patient? (2 marks)

*Ortho and surgical referral*