



Cervical Collar

EMT-Basic

Advanced EMT

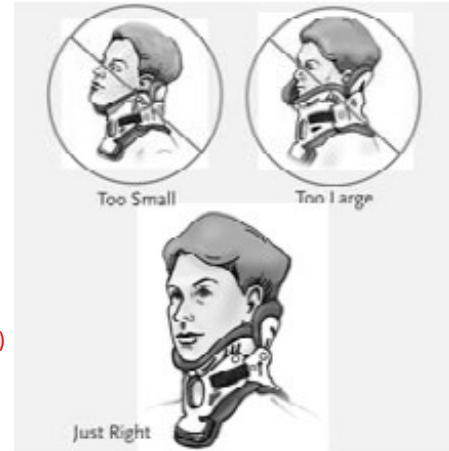
Paramedic

UPDATED TO ALIGN WITH SPINAL MOTION RESTRICTION AND TRAUMA TRIAGE FIELD GUIDELINES

PROCEDURE

Patient meets need for Spinal Motion Precaution Guideline (if yes to any of the following):

- Blunt trauma with or without penetrating trauma with ANY of the following
 - ALOC
 - Focal neurological signs/symptoms
 - Adult
 - Midline neck pain or tenderness
 - Anatomic deformity
 - Distracting injury
 - Pediatric
 - Complaints of neck pain
 - Torticollis
 - High risk MVC (high or moderate risk for serious injury)
 - Diving injury
 - Substantial torso injury



- Manually hold in line spine stabilization of patient's head
- Size c-collar for patient and pick appropriate size
- Slide collar under patient's neck and head and secure under chin appropriately
- Ensure patient is moved as a single unit while maintaining control of the c-spine

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



1 While one provider applies in-line stabilization (*not* traction!), slide the posterior portion of the collar behind the patient's neck. Maintain in-line stabilization in the neutral position until the patient is fully immobilized.



2 Bring the front portion of the collar around, under the patient's chin. Ensure that the chin is well supported by the chin piece. Difficulty positioning the chin piece may indicate the need for a shorter collar.



3 Attach the loop Velcro from the posterior portion of the collar to the hook Velcro on the anterior portion. Recheck the position of the patient's head for proper alignment. Tighten the collar as needed until proper support is obtained.

KEY POINTS

- Keeps the patient spine in line and immobile to prevent further injury
- Decreases chances of morbidity and mortality in the hospital and prehospital setting
- C-Collar placement is not routinely indicated in penetrating trauma
- If unable to apply a cervical collar, due to neck size or injury preventing return to midline, providers should maintain manual cervical stabilization throughout treatment and transport until handed off directly to a hospital provider

Medical Director: Ben Weston, MD, MPH

Revision Date: April 2024