

Spinal Cord Injury SCI

Signs and Symptoms

- Pain and tenderness over spine
- Numbness or Paraesthesia
- Weakness or heaviness of limbs
- Paradoxical respirations
- Priapism (sustained erection)
- Deformity of spine
- Altered skin sensation (tingling)
- Paralysis of limbs
- Nausea

Warning

All head injuries should be considered spinal cord injuries until proven otherwise

First Aid

This position is termed the High Arm IN Endangered Spine or HAINES position



Logrolling is a maneuver used to move a patient without flexing the spinal column.



Management

Unconscious patient

- DRSABCD
- Prevent flexion or rotation of head
- Maintain neutral head position
- Place unconscious patient in Haines position (single operator)
- Manual inline support and log roll (2 rescuer)
- Airway always takes precedence over spine injury
- Call emergency services '000' and follow instructions

Conscious patient

- DRSABCD
- Patient to remain calm and not move (on ground)
- Patient to be placed on ground at own accord (if standing)
- Maintain neutral head position (manual inline support)
- Airway monitored at all times
- Place patient on rigid backboard
- Call emergency services '000' and follow instructions

