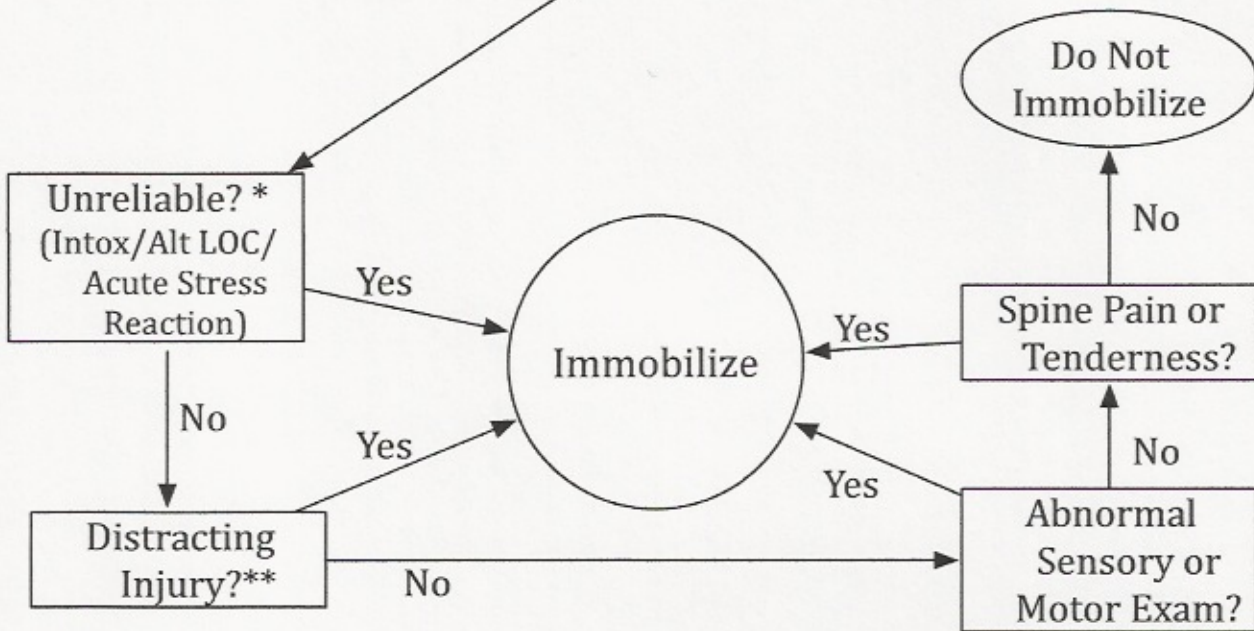


Spine Assessment Protocol

Suspected Spinal Injury - Based on Complaint and mechanism of injury



* Clearance of the spine requires the patient to be calm, cooperative, sober, and alert.

** Distracting injury includes any injury that produces clinically apparent pain that might distract the patient from the pain of a spine injury.

Remember that patients can fracture the spine at any level, not just the C-spine. If a fracture at another level of the spine is suspected, the entire spine must be immobilized, including the cervical spine. Patients with thoracic or lumbar fracture will commonly have associated cervical spine injuries.