Blunt or mixed trauma patient with potential c-spine injury

Non contrast Cervical spine CT

Negative for cervical spine injury

Positive for cervical spine injury

1. Isolated TP/SP fracture AND
2. CT negative for ligament injury

1. Any other fracture OR
2. CT positive for ligament injury

Cervical spine MRI w/in 48H

Asymptomatic

Midline tenderness but NO paresthesia/focal deficit

Paresthesia/focal deficit

Evaluable

Remove collar

Collar X 2 weeks +/- spine consult

No midline tenderness

Midline tenderness

Ligament injury absent

Ligament injury present

Spine specialist consult

Spine specialist consult AND

Spine specialist consult

*Patients with penetrating trauma only should not routinely have a cervical collar placed. If a collar is present, it can be removed unless there is an obvious spinal injury or neurologic symptoms. All collars should be at least temporarily removed to assess for hidden injury.