



FAST RESPONSE SCHOOL OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

EMT: TRAUMA – LEARNING SHEET



SPINAL IMMOBILIZATION - SEATED

OBJECTIVE:

Student will demonstrate the proper technique for applying a cervical collar and a short board or vest type immobilization device.

EQUIPMENT:

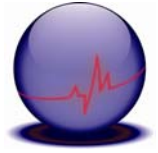
1. Patient.
2. Cervical collars (various sizes)
3. Short Backboard **OR** Vest type device (example: KED)
4. Long Backboard
5. Straps (example: Spyder straps, seatbelts)
6. Blankets or other padding material
7. 2" or 3" tape
8. Towels or bulky dressing
9. Commercially available cervical immobilization device (if available)
10. Roller bandage

Supine Technique:

1.	Takes body substance isolation precautions.
2.	Directs assistant to place and maintain patient's head in the neutral in-line position.
3.	Directs assistant to maintain manual stabilization of the head and neck until patient is fully immobilized to backboard.
4.	Assesses color, motor, sensory, temperature and pulse (CMSTP) in all extremities.
5.	Assesses neck/C-spine area for any signs and symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tenderness• Deformities/Step-off• Open wounds
6.	Securely applies the appropriately sized cervical collar while maintaining spinal alignment and the patient's airway.
7.	Positions the immobilization device next to the patient and ensures it is ready for application.
8.	Ensure that adequate personnel are in the appropriate positions to move patient.
9.	While maintaining spinal alignment, directs assistant to move patient forward on the command of the EMT maintaining the cervical spine.
10.	Patient's posterior is evaluated after being moved forward by EMT in control of the torso.
11.	Positions immobilization device behind patient appropriately.
12.	While maintaining spinal alignment, directs assistant to move patient back onto the immobilization device on the command of the EMT maintaining the cervical spine.
13.	Adjusts the position of the immobilization device, if necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The vest should be fitted into armpits without causing discomfort to patient.



FAST RESPONSE SCHOOL OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATION
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
EMT: TRAUMA – LEARNING SHEET



14. Immobilizes the patient's torso to the immobilization device. Ensures that all straps are tight but that they do not inhibit respirations. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting at top of device, secure straps top to bottom.• Leg straps should be applied last.
15. Evaluates torso fixation.
16. Evaluates and pads behind the patient's head as necessary.
17. Secures the patient's head to device utilizing supplied Velcro straps or 2" tape.
18. Move patient to long backboard using short backboard or vest type device.
19. Undo leg straps to allow legs to lay freely on long backboard.
20. Secure patient to long backboard utilizing straps.
21. Reassess color, motor, sensory, temperature, pulse (CMSTP) in all extremities.

CRITICAL CRITERIA

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did not take or verbalize BSI• Did not immediately direct or take manual stabilization of the head• Released or orders release of manual stabilization before it is maintained mechanically.• Did not properly apply appropriately sized cervical collar before ordering release of manual stabilization• Upon completion of immobilization, cervical collar is wrong size and/or on patient incorrectly• Back not assessed before moving patient onto the immobilization device.• Immobilizes head to board before securing the torso.• Patient manipulated or moved excessively causing potential spinal compromise.• Chest strap is secured to tightly causing respiratory compromise.• Device moves excessively up, down, left or right on the patient's torso• Head immobilization allows for excessive movement• Did not assess color, motor, sensory, temperature and pulse (CMSTP) in each extremity before immobilization to the vest type device or short backboard.• Did not assess color, motor, sensory, temperature and pulse (CMSTP) in each extremity after patient is secured to the long backboard.• Head is not in a neutral position upon completion of immobilization.• Failure to manage the patient as a competent EMT• Exhibits unacceptable affect with patient or other personnel• Uses or orders a dangerous or inappropriate intervention
