

Anterior Cord Syndrome

Nathaniel Yomogida

Chloë Kerstein

Etiology

- Frequently related to flexion injuries of the cervical region¹
 - Damage to anterior portion of the cord¹
 - And/or the Vascular supply (anterior spinal artery)¹.
- Compression of anterior cord
 - Fracture
 - Dislocation
 - Cervical disk protrusion

Clinical Presentation

Corticospinal tract damage Spinothalamic tract Damage DCML Preservation

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|--|--|----------------------------|
| • Motor function loss ¹ | • Pain loss ¹ | • Preservation (generally) |
| • Below the level of the lesion ¹ | • Temperature loss ¹ | – Proprioception |
| | • Below the level of the lesion ¹ | – Light touch |
| | | – Vibratory sense |

Prognosis

Individuals with anterior cord syndrome often require a longer length of stay during inpatient rehabilitation compared to people with other types of SCI clinical syndromes¹

1. O'Sullivan SB, Schmitz TJ, Fulk GD, eds. *Physical Rehabilitation*. 7th ed. F.A. Davis Company; 2019.