TITLE: External Devices for Cervical Spine Immobilization in the Pre-Hospital Setting: Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 12 June 2013

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the clinical effectiveness of external cervical spine immobilization devices for the management of trauma patients in the pre-hospital setting?

KEY MESSAGE

One systematic review was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of external cervical spine immobilization devices for the management of trauma patients in the pre-hospital setting.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2013, Issue 5), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2008 and June 3, 2013. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.
One systematic review was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of external cervical spine immobilization devices for the management of trauma patients in the pre-hospital setting. No health technology assessments, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One systematic review was identified that made recommendations based on a mixed population (including healthy volunteers and trauma patients) on the use of the cervical collar and head immobilization techniques in the pre-hospital setting. There were no details in the abstract regarding the actual recommendations, and no other articles were identified that fit the inclusion criteria.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

PubMed: PM20175667

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Non-Randomized Studies – Incidence on Cervical Spine Immobilization Use or Outcomes


Non-Randomized Studies – Healthy Volunteers


Additional References


