

SPINAL INJURY



Managing a spinal injury

Signs & symptoms

- pain at or below site of injury
- loss of sensation, or abnormal sensation such as tingling in hands or feet
- loss of movement or impaired movement below site of injury

WARNING

Take extreme care at all times to maintain alignment of the neck and spine.

If the patient is unconscious as a result of a head injury, always suspect a spinal injury.

Management

- 1. After DRSABCD, swift immobilisation is the highest priority**
 - do not move the patient unless they are in danger
- 2. Place in recovery position supporting neck and head at all times**
- 3. Support the patient's head and neck**
 - place hands on each side of head until support is arranged
 - apply a cervical or improvised collar to minimise neck movement
- 4. Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance**

In an emergency, call triple zero (000) for an ambulance

For more information on St John first aid training and kits, visit www.stjohn.org.au or freecall 1300 360 455

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