The Canadian C-Spine Rule

For Alert (Glasgow Coma Scale Score = 15) and Stable Trauma Patients Where Cervical Spine (C-Spine) Injury is a Concern

1. **Any High-Risk Factor that Mandates Radiography?**
   - Age at least 65 years
   - Dangerous mechanism
   - Paresthesias in Extremities
   
   **Yes**
   
   **No**

2. **Any Low-Risk Factor that Allows Safe Assessment of Range of Motion?**
   - Simple rear-end MVC
   - Sitting position in ED
   - Ambulatory at any time
   - Delayed onset of neck pain
   - Absence of Midline C-Spine Tenderness

   **No**

   **Yes**

3. **Able to Actively Rotate Neck?**
   - 45 degrees left and right

   **Able**

   **No**

MVC = Motor vehicle collision; ED = emergency department

**Dangerous Mechanism**
- Fall from at least 1 meter or 5 stairs
- Axial load to head, e.g., diving
- MVC high speed (over 100km.hr). rollover, ejection
- Motorized recreational vehicles
- Bicycle collision

**Simple Rear-end MVC Excludes**
- Pushed into oncoming traffic
- Hit by bus/large truck
- Rollover
- Hit by high-speed vehicle

**Delayed**
- Not immediate onset of neck pain