



WHAT?

Spinal **C**ord Injury **W**ithout
Radiological **A**bnormality

Defined as: *'clinical symptoms of traumatic myelopathy with no radiographic or computed tomographic features of spinal fracture or instability'* (2)

Neurological symptoms persisting despite normal radiographic images on x-ray or CT of the spine is an indication for an MRI to rule out a cord injury.

Occurs more often in children

Mainly affects the cervical spine.

WHY?

Accounts for 6-19% of spinal cord injuries in *children* and 9-14% of spinal cord injuries in *adults*.

When a patient is immobilised following trauma, you must **ALWAYS** examine for neurological deficit **BEFORE** removing immobilisation even if x-ray or CT is **NORMAL** to ensure a SCIWORA is not missed.

May present as complete or incomplete spinal cord injury.

HOW?

1. **SCIWORA** (*Radiopaedia*)
<http://bit.ly/2K9gZjc>
2. **Clinical and Radiological Aspects of SCIWORA** (*NCBI*)
<http://bit.ly/2MVvHYQ>
3. **Incomplete Spinal Cord Injuries** (*Ortho Bullets*)
<http://bit.ly/2K8xhcn>

