

Bryan Radiology Associates
CT C-SPINE

Last update: 2021-01-03 JN

Setup:

- Do not flex or extend the neck if there has been recent spine trauma or if the patient is in a cervical collar
- Retract shoulders as much as possible
- Scout from T3 through the skull base

Scan Parameters:

- Range: from inferior edge of orbits or inferior edge of sella to mid T2
- Preferred DFOV: 12 cm

Reformats:

- Obtain Oblique Axial images when the plane of any disc level is > 15 degrees different from the plane of the scan during the initial acquisition. Images below are an example (see fig 1 & 2). Most cases require 0, 1, or 2 such oblique axial blocks.

PACS Series: (slice thickness x gap)

1) trauma

- 1 x 1 mm AX soft tissue: straight stack (not oblique angled)
- 1 x 1 mm AX bone **kernel** (not just bone windows) straight stack
- 1 x 1 mm COR bone **kernel**
- 1 x 1 mm SAG bone **kernel**
- 1 x 1 mm Oblique Axial(s) bone **kernel** as needed

2) Radiculopathy

- 1 x 1 mm AX soft tissue: straight stack (not oblique angled)
- 1 x 1 mm AX bone **kernel** (not just bone windows) straight stack
- 1 x 1 mm COR soft tissue
- 1 x 1 mm SAG soft tissue
- 1 x 1 mm Oblique Axial(s) soft tissue, as needed.

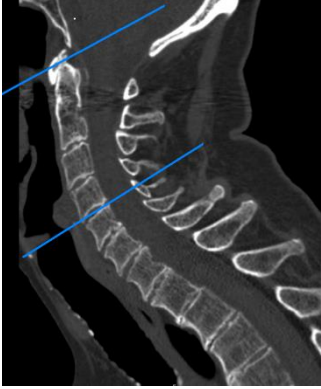


fig 1 (source: ARA)



fig 2 (source: ARA)

CTDI: 15 – 30 mGy

Adapted from ARA