

DENS RCT

Clinically suspected cervical spine fracture

Hard collar usually applied as standard care for safety prior to cervical spine computed tomograph (CT)

Meets inclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Age \geq 65 or clinical frailty score \geq 5
- odontoid peg fracture on CT C- Spine
- Spinal consultant confirms suitability for non-operative management & randomisation
- Injury within last 3 weeks

Exclusion Criteria

- neurological deficit due to fracture
- other cervical spine fractures requiring immobilisation
- high risk of instability (ankylosing spondylitis, DISH, high impact injury)
- patient unable to tolerate hard collar

Consent and randomisation

Collar removal

Standard Care
Hard Collar

Remove collar

2 week Research Questionnaire
- Local research team
- May coordinate with clinical OPD

6 week Research Questionnaire
- Local research team

12 week Research Questionnaire
- Local research team
- May coordinate with clinical OPD
- Standard care Imaging

Remove hard collar

6 & 12 month Central CTU follow up*

Data linkage for 5-year outcomes in consenting patients.
No direct patient contact required after 12-month final assessment