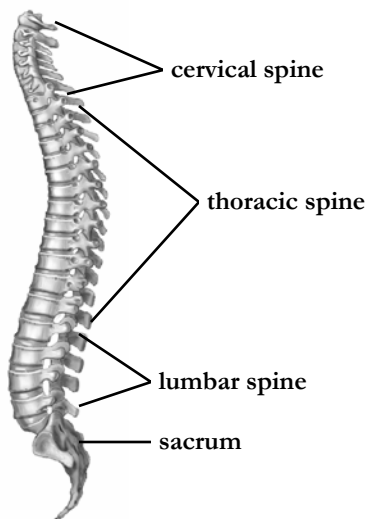


Cervical Collars

About Your Spinal Cord

The spinal cord is bundles of nerves that come from the brain and connect with the body. They travel down the bones of the back called the spine.

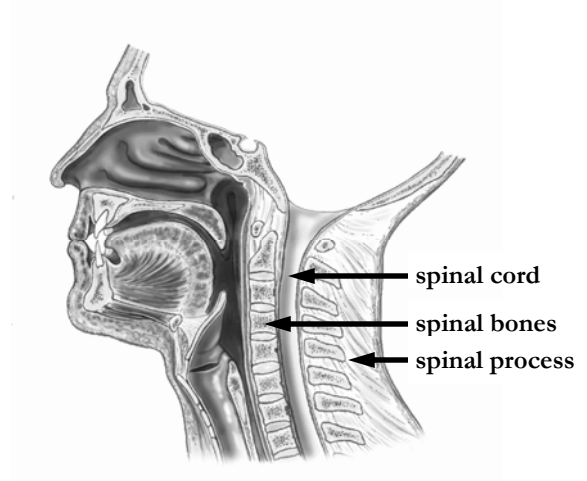


Injury to Your Spinal Cord

Sometimes these nerves can be damaged without the bones being broken. The X-rays can be normal because they only show the bones.

This injury can happen more often in children because their heads are bigger than their bodies and their ligaments and bones have not completely developed.

This is how the spinal cord is positioned in the back and neck bones.



What Does a Cervical Collar Do?

The collar will protect the neck until your surgeon is sure that a neck injury has not occurred. Your doctor may leave the cervical collar on until there is no pain in the back of the neck. If there are other major injuries, your doctor may leave the collar on until the more important injuries are taken care of. He may then do special X-rays in order to see if the ligaments are injured or the spinal cord is injured. Your surgeon will let you know when it is safe to remove the collar.

