

Study Of Neck Injuries In Children (SONIC)

ACTRN12621001050842

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	Murdoch Children's Research Institute
Enrollment	30,000 participants

Plain Language Summary

This study is investigating the best way to assess potential neck injuries in children who have had a fall or other blunt trauma. Currently, doctors use a range of 'decision rules' to decide whether a child needs a neck X-ray or scan — but most of these rules were designed for adults, and it is unclear how well they work for children.

The SONIC study (Study Of Neck Injuries In Children) is collecting data from a large group of Australian and New Zealand children who come to emergency departments with suspected cervical spine injuries. By comparing how well different existing decision tools perform — and exploring whether a new, child-specific tool can be developed — the study aims to reduce unnecessary imaging while making sure genuine injuries are not missed.

The study is open to children under 16 years of age who have had a known or suspected blunt trauma and are being assessed for a possible neck injury. It is an observational study, meaning children receive their normal medical care — the research team simply records information about their assessment and outcome.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (1)

- Children aged less than 16 years with possible cervical spine injury (CSI) after known or suspected blunt trauma

Exclusion (1)

- Patients who received cervical spine imaging at a centre not participating in this study prior to transfer with definitive external radiology reporting available at the time of arrival at the study ED will be excluded from accuracy analysis.

Locations (12 total)

The Royal Childrens Hospital - Parkville, NSW,NT,QLD,SA,WA,VIC, Australia
Queensland Children's Hospital - South Brisbane, NSW,NT,QLD,SA,WA,VIC, Australia
Logan Hospital - Meadowbrook, NSW,NT,QLD,SA,WA,VIC, Australia
... and 9 more locations

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12621001050842>

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