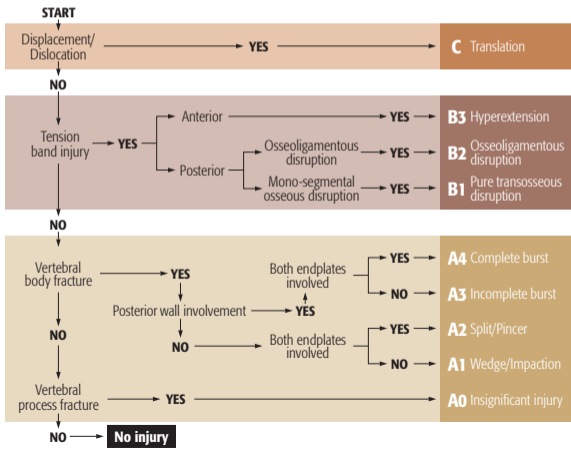


AOSpine Thoracolumbar Classification System

Algorithm for Morphologic Classification



Fracture Types

C.



Type C.

Translation Injuries

Failure of all elements leading to dislocation or displacement.

B.



Type B.

Distraction Injuries

Failure of the posterior or anterior tension band.

A.



Type A.

Compression Injuries

Failure of anterior structures under compression.

AOSpine Thoracolumbar Classification System

Description of Morphologic Classification

Type A. Compression Injuries

A0. Minor, nonstructural fractures

Fractures, which do not compromise the structural integrity of the spinal column such as transverse process or spinous process fractures.

A1. Wedge-compression

Fracture of a single endplate without involvement of the posterior wall of the vertebral body.

A2. Split

Fracture of both endplates without involvement of the posterior wall of the vertebral body.

Type B. Distraction Injuries

B1. Transosseous tension band disruption / Chance fracture

Monosegmental pure osseous failure of the posterior tension band. The classical Chance fracture.

B2. Posterior tension band disruption

Bony and/or ligamentary failure of the posterior tension band together with a Type A fracture. Type A fracture should be classified separately.

A3. Incomplete burst

Fracture with any involvement of the posterior wall; only a single endplate fractured. Vertical fracture of the lamina is usually present and does not constitute a tension band failure.

Type C. Translation Injuries

C. Displacement / Dislocation

There are no subtypes because various configurations are possible due to dissociation/dislocation. Can be combined with subtypes of A or B.

B3. Hyperextension

Injury through the disk or vertebral body leading to a hyperextended position of the spinal column. Commonly seen in ankylotic disorders. Anterior structures, especially ALL are ruptured but there is a posterior hinge preventing further displacement.

A4. Complete burst

Fracture with any involvement of the posterior wall *and* both endplates. Vertical fracture of the lamina is usually present and does not constitute a tension band failure.