

NECK INJURY

Know when to get a CTA of the chest

Penetrating Neck Trauma-Hard Signs

HARD Bruit Mnemonic

**Hemoptysis/
Hematemesis/
Hypotension**

Arterial Bleeding

**Rapidly expanding
hematoma**

**Deficit (Neurologic/
pulse)**

Bruit

If a patient has any of these signs/symptoms you go to the OR

Approach to Neck Injury

1) Blunt Neck Trauma → Get a CT Angiogram of the neck if:

- 1) Neurologic deficit present (Numbness, weakness, vision changes.
- 2) Any forceful impact to the neck
- 3) Any basilar skull fracture, facial bone fracture, or cervical spine fracture

2) Penetrating Neck Trauma (Any penetration of the Platysma muscle)

- 1) Patient is unstable → Go straight to OR
- 2) If stable, look for Hard signs (See Sidebar) if present go to OR
- 3) If stable and no Hard signs → Get a CT Angiogram of the Neck

References

Roepke C, Benjamin E, Jhun P, Herbert M. Penetrating Neck Injury: What's In and What's Out?. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2016;67(5): 578-80.

Bean AS. Trauma to the Neck. In: Tintinalli JE, Stapczynski J, Ma O, Yealy DM, Meckler GD, Cline DM. eds. *Tintinalli's Emergency Medicine: A Comprehensive Study Guide*, 8e. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2016. <http://accessemergencymedicine.mhmedical.com/content.aspx?bookid=1658&Sectionid=109445628>. Accessed September 29, 2016.