

*Title: The Cranio-vertebral Scanning Examination

Outline: The rapid onset of cranio-vertebral joint symptoms (predominantly trigeminal) following trauma signifies a real clinical challenge. First, the possibility of more serious pathology such as a fracture, cord trauma or damage to the vertebral artery. Second, if the trauma is primarily to the musculo-skeletal component of the cranio-vertebral region how does the clinician identify the possible structure(s) at fault and decide on an appropriate 'first treatment' approach? The rapid onset of post-traumatic cranio-vertebral signs and/or symptoms has been identified as a poor prognostic indicator by the 'Quebec Task Force' and the 'BC Incentive on Whiplash'. This scanning examination demonstration gives the clinician a reasoned and safe assessment approach to this difficult and potentially hazardous problem.