

Anterior Neck Assessment

TWELVE-C

Using the TWELVE-C mnemonic to assess the anterior neck for risk of significant injury and impending airway obstruction following trauma.

T

Tracheal deviation – assess for tenderness, deviation

W

Wounds – assess for open wounds/haemorrhage

E

Emphysema (subcutaneous/surgical)

L

Laryngeal tenderness / crepitus

V

Venous distension – assess for vascular injury such as bruising/bruit/expanding haematoma

E

oEsophageal injury – assess for pain on swallowing (injury unlikely if able to swallow easily)

C

Carotid haematoma / bruits / swelling

*Collar should be opened/removed to visualise anterior neck while manual inline stabilisation (MILS) is maintained.