AO Spine Thoracolumbar Classification System

Type A Compression Injuries

A0 Minor, nonstructural fractures
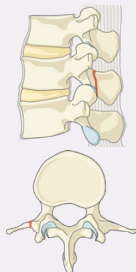
A1 Wedge-compression

A2 Split

A3 Incomplete burst
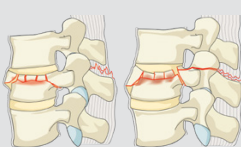

A4 Complete burst

Type B Distraction Injuries

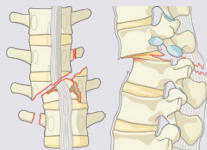### B1 Transosseous tension band disruption Chance fracture

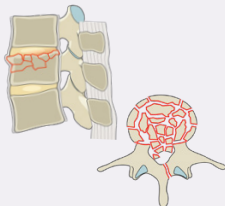### B2 Posterior tension band disruption

Type C Translation Injuries
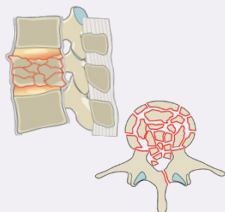
C Displacement or dislocation

B3 Hyperextension

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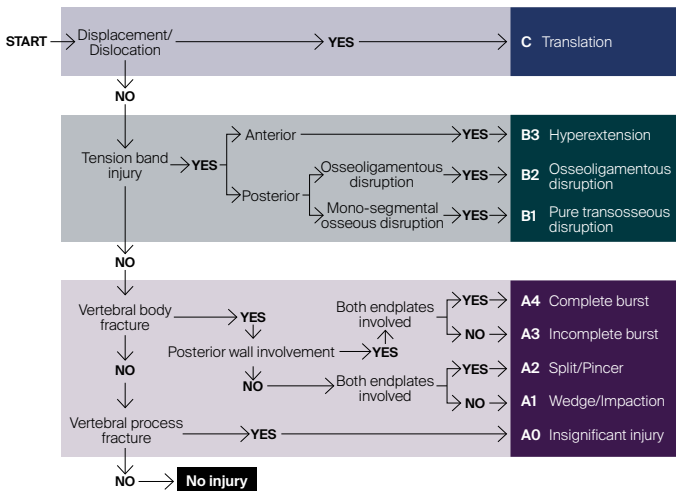
Neurology

Type	Neurological
N0	Neurology intact
N1	Transient neurologic deficit
N2	Radicular symptoms
N3	Incomplete spinal cord injury or any degree of cauda equina injury
N4	Complete spinal cord injuryl
NX	Cannot be examined
+	Continued spinal cord compression

Modifiers

Type	Description
M1	This modifier is used to designate fractures with an indeterminate injury to the tension band based on spinal imaging with or without MRI. This modifier is important for designating those injuries with stable injuries from a bony standpoint for which ligamentous insufficiency may help determine whether operative stabilization is a consideration.
M2	Is used to designate a patient-specific comorbidity, which might argue either for or against surgery for patients with relative surgical indications. Examples of an M2 modifier include ankylosing spondylitis or burns affecting the skin overlying the injured spine.