## AO Spine Subaxial Injury Classification System

### Type A: Compression Injuries
- **A0** Minor, nonstructural fractures: No bony injury or minor injury such as an isolated lamina fracture or spinous process fracture.
- **A1** Wedge-compression: Compression fracture involving a single endplate without involvement of the posterior wall of the vertebral body.
- **A2** Split: Coronal split or pincer fracture involving both endplates without involvement of the posterior wall of the vertebral body.
- **A3** Incomplete burst: Burst fracture involving a single endplate with involvement of the posterior vertebral wall.
- **A4** Complete burst: Burst fracture or sagittal split involving both endplates.

### Type B: Tension Band Injuries
- **B1** Posterior tension band injury (bony): Physical separation through fractured bony structures only.
- **B2** Posterior tension band injury (bony capsuloligamentous, ligamentous): Complete disruption of the posterior capsuloligamentous or bony capsuloligamentous structures together with a vertebral body, disc, and/or facet injury.
- **B3** Anterior tension band injury: Physical disruption or separation of the anterior structures (nonend) with tethering of the posterior elements.

### Type C: Translation Injuries
- **C** Translational injury in any axis-displacement or translation of one vertebral body relative to another in any direction.

### Type F: Facet Injuries
- **F1** Nondisplaced facet fracture: With fragment <1cm in height, <40% of lateral mass.
- **F2** Facet fracture with potential for instability: With fragment >1cm, > than 40% lateral mass, or displaced.
- **F3** Floating lateral mass
- **F4** Pathologic subluxation or perched/dislocated facet

### Classification Nomenclature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>C6-C7</th>
<th>F4*</th>
<th>F2*</th>
<th>N2</th>
<th>M3</th>
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<td>Neurologic status</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

### Algorithm for morphologic classification

1. Displacement/Dislocation
   - **S** Yes → **T** Translation
2. Tension band injury
   - **D** Yes → **B** Bony
   - **D** No → **B** Ligamentous
3. Vertebral body fracture
   - **B** Yes → **A** Bony
   - **B** No → **A** Ligamentous
4. Vertebral process fracture
   - **B** Yes → **A** Bony
   - **B** No → **A** Ligamentous
5. Neurology
   - **C** Yes → **N** Neurological
   - **C** No → **N** No neurological
6. Modifiers
   - **M** Yes → **S** Stenosing
   - **M** No → **S** Normal

Further information: [www.aospine.org/classification](http://www.aospine.org/classification)