

Reviews on Injury Parameters and Injury Criteria for Minor Neck Injuries during Rear-end Impacts

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Objective

- *To review the published papers including the data and the current available knowledge for a reduction of minor neck injury on rear-end impacts.*
- *To share the biomechanical knowledge and the valuable information based on current existing available data for rear-end impacts, and to reflect proper neck injury evaluation parameters and injury criteria into the regulation documents of the informal GTR7.*

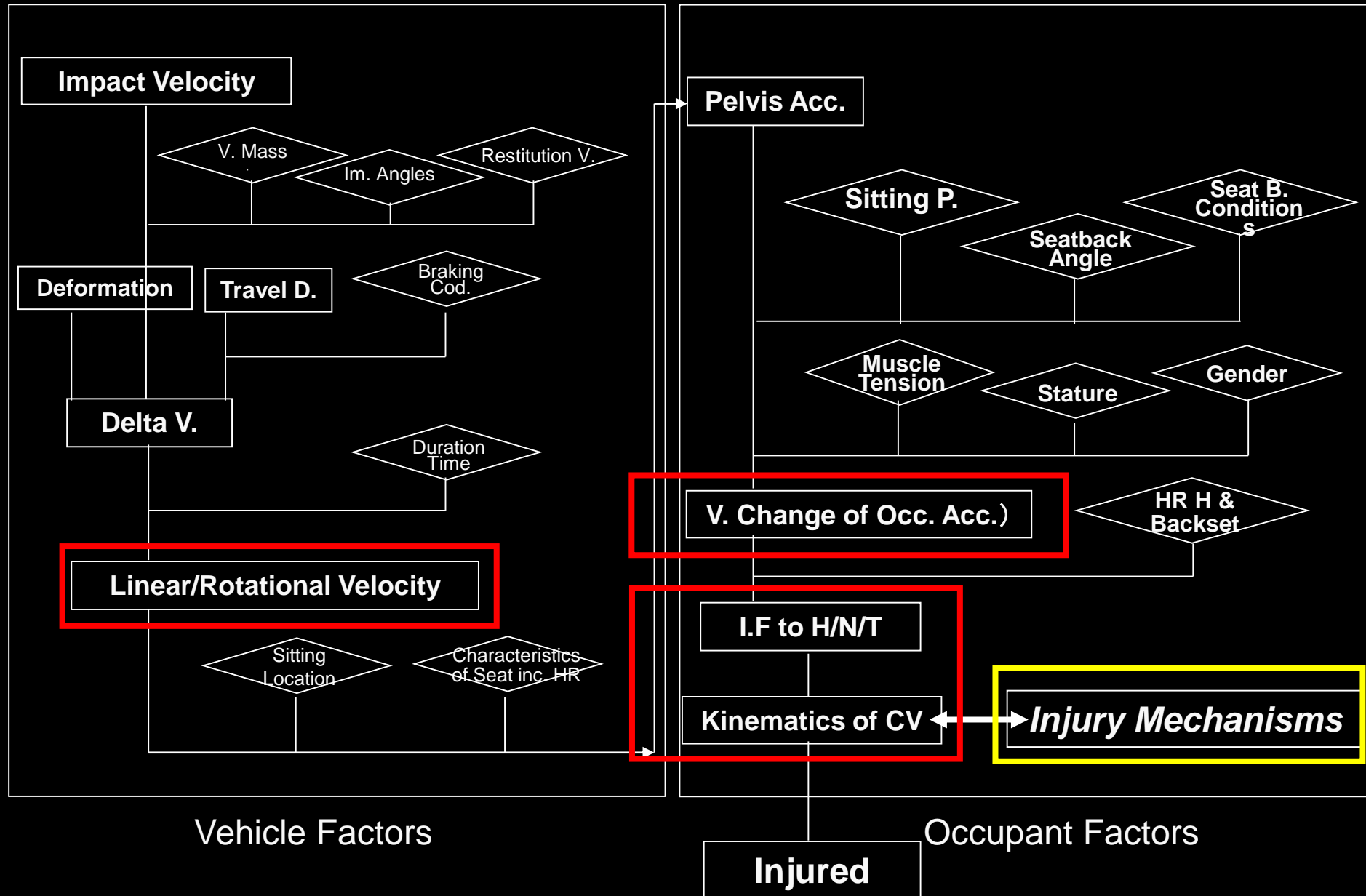
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- 1. Overview of Reduction Methods on Minor Neck Injuries during Rear-end Impacts**
- 2. Injury Evaluation Parameters & Injury Criteria based on HVT & ARS**
- 3. Step1: Human Volunteer Tests**
- 4. Step2: Accident Data**
- 5. Step3: Accident Reconstruction based on FE model**
- 6. Draft Proposal on Evaluation of Injury Parameters and Injury Risk Curve based on the Collaboration between NHTSA and Japan**
- 7. Influence of Muscle Conditions to Cervical Vertebral Motions**
- 8. Conclusions**

1. Overview of Reduction Methods on Minor Neck Injuries during Rear-end Impacts

- A) Influence factors for the occurrence of neck injuries during rear-end impacts**
- B) Needing proper minor neck injury parameters in rear-end impacts**
- C) Current knowledge for clarifications of neck injury mechanisms in rear impacts**
 - Example: Clinical Findings**
- D) Flowchart for clarifications of neck injury criteria/threshods in rear impacts**

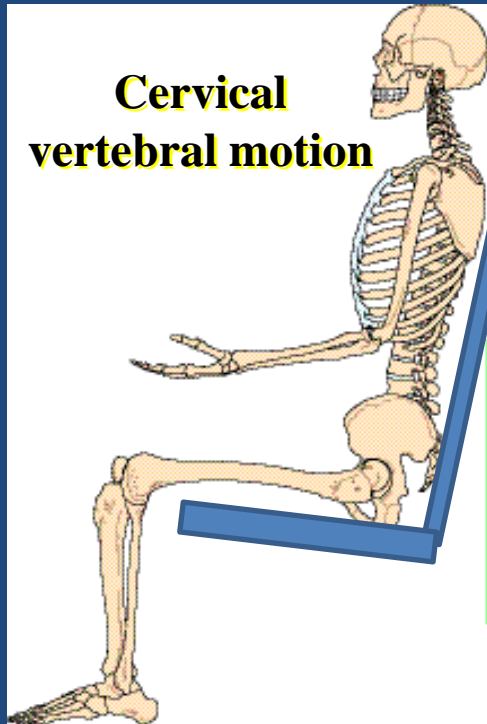
A) Influence Factors for the Occurrence of Neck Injuries during Rear-end Impacts



Minor neck injury

Not only neck region

Focus on whole spine motion



S-Shape Motion
(Vertical, Horizontal Motion)

Spine
straightening
Ramping-up

Current evaluation method
Not enough

focuses only on upper neck

- 1) Angle
- 2) Moment, axial force

Neck angle

Additional parameters

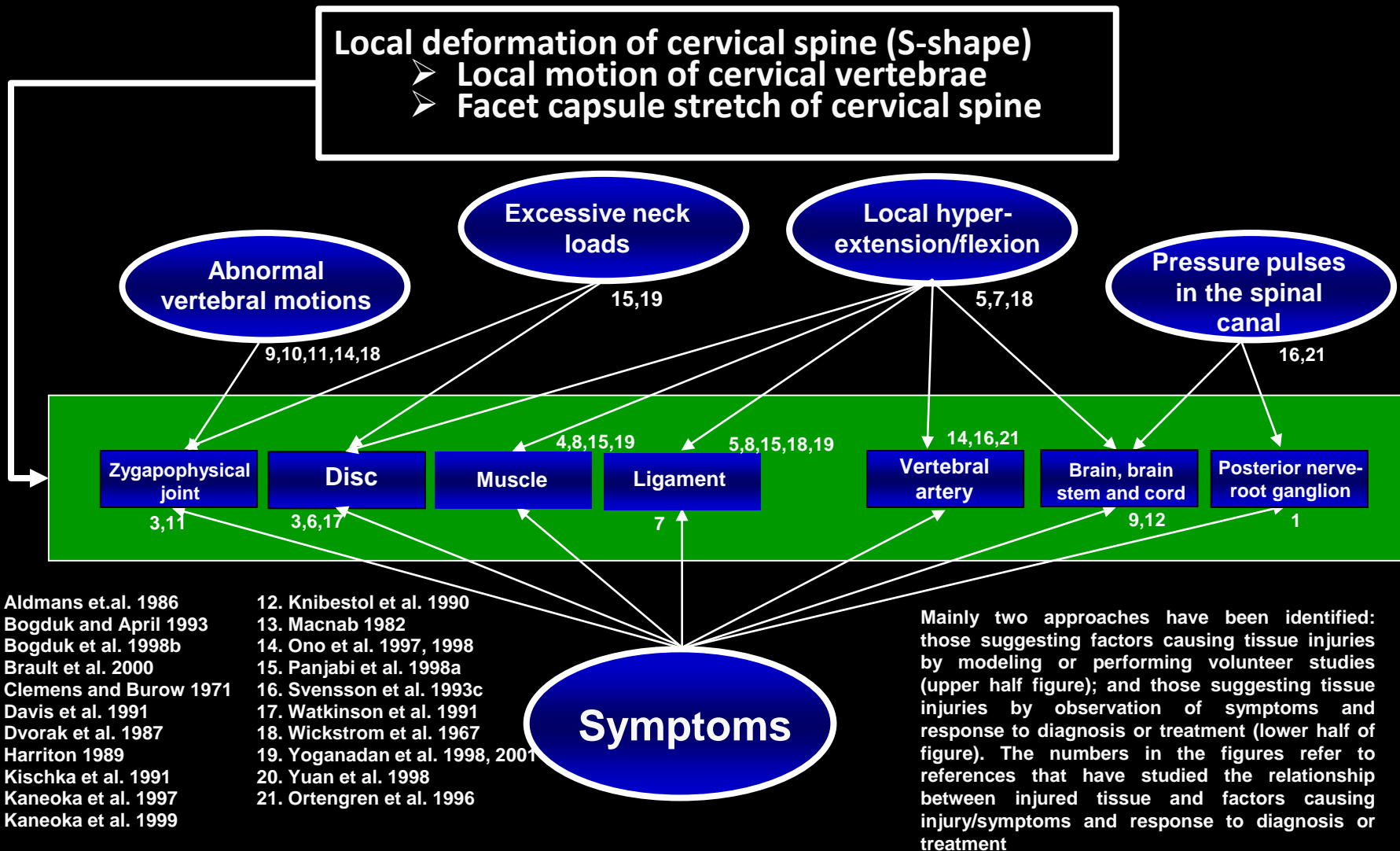
Lower neck

- 1) Axial, shear forces
- 2) Neck angle wrt T1

Needs to consider proper
neck injury parameters

**B) Needing proper minor neck injury parameters
in rear-end impacts**

C) Current Knowledge for Clarifications of Neck Injury Mechanisms in Rear Impacts



Suggested factors causing tissues injuries such as abnormal vertebral motions, excessive neck loads, local hyper-extension/flexion, and pressure pulses in the spinal canal are predicted by the expression of the local deformation of cervical spine (s-shape). According to this result, the proper evaluation for the reduction of the risk of neck injury is proposed.

Example : Clinical Findings on Zygopophysial Joint

Tenderness around the right facet joint



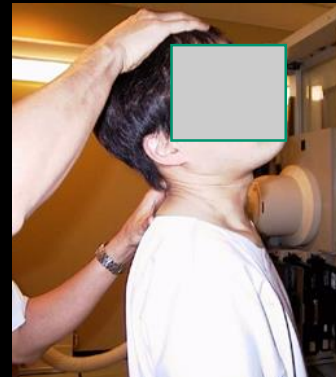
Passive neck extension with right rotation induced pain



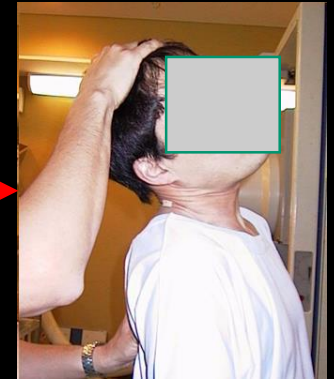
Facet Block (Rt. C5/6)



Before



After

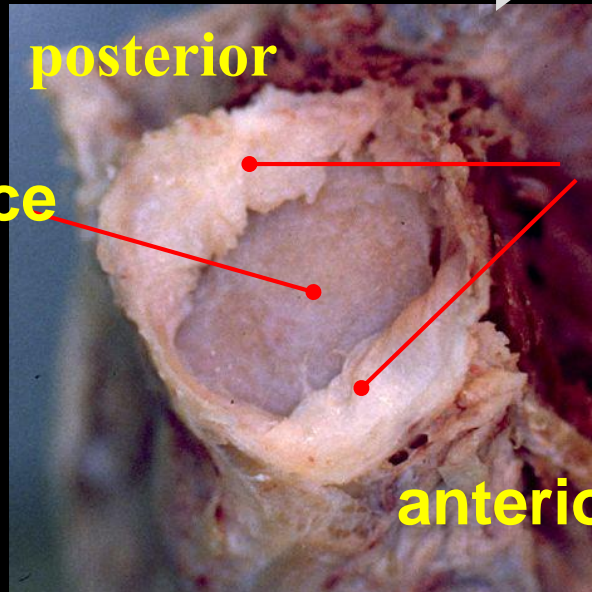


Full range of motion without pain

Example : Cervical Zygapophysial Joint (Facet Joint)



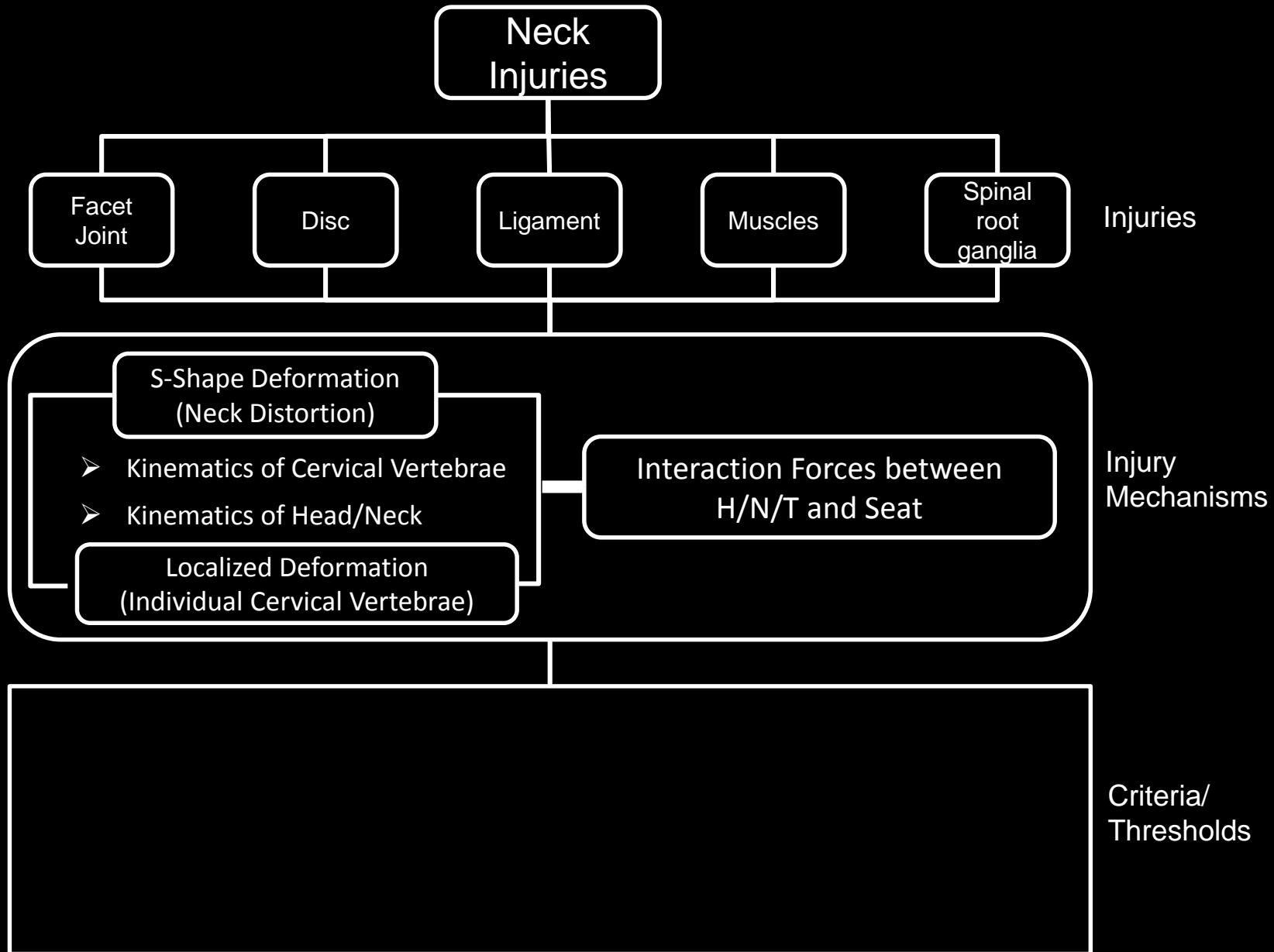
Articular surface



**Joint inclusion
: Meniscoid,
Synovial fold**

Sample shown by Autopsy Case

D) Flowchart for Clarifications of Neck Injury Criteria/Thresholds in Rear Impacts



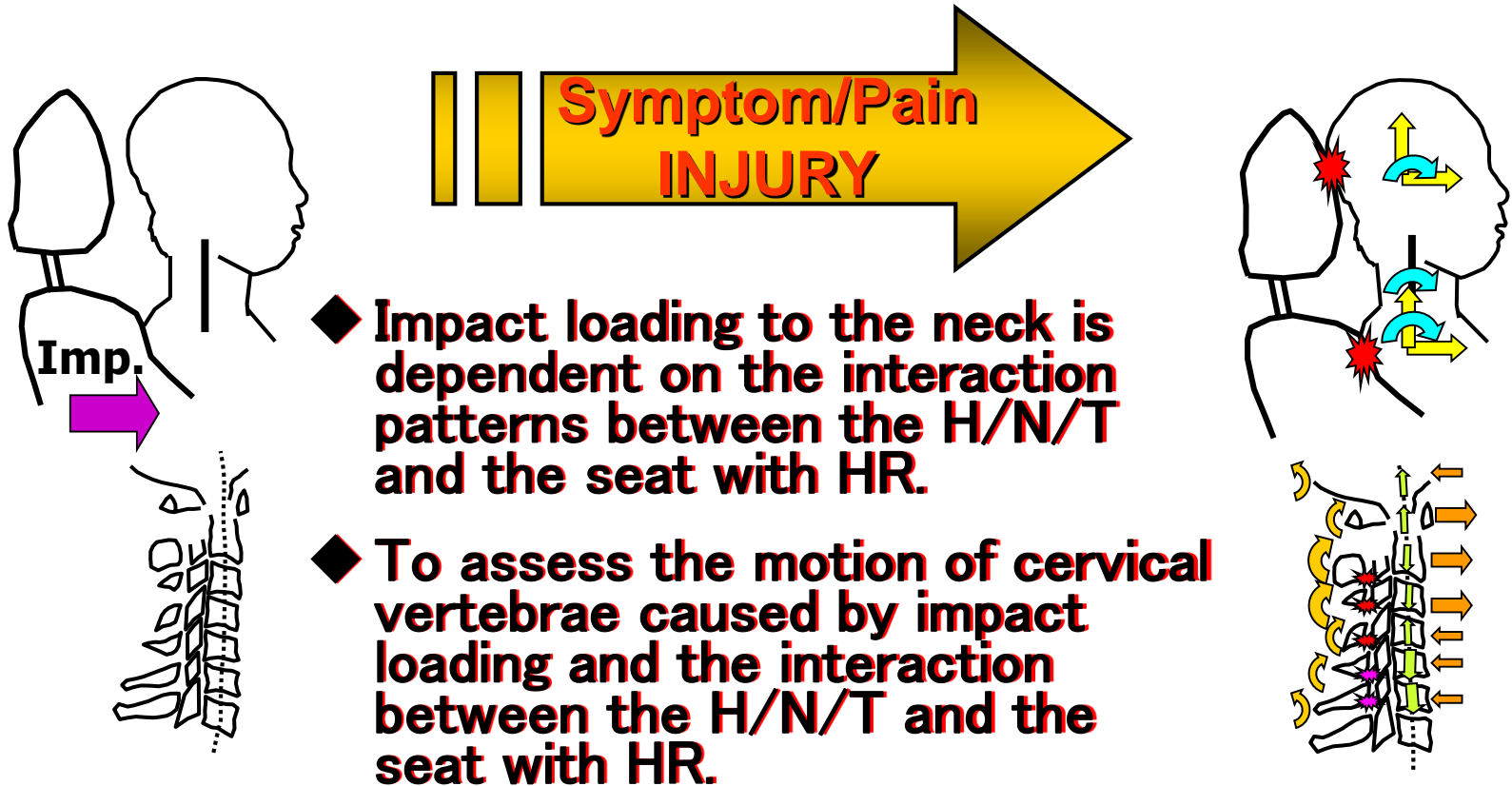
2. Injury Evaluation Parameters & Injury Criteria based on HVT & ARS

HVT : Human Volunteer Tests

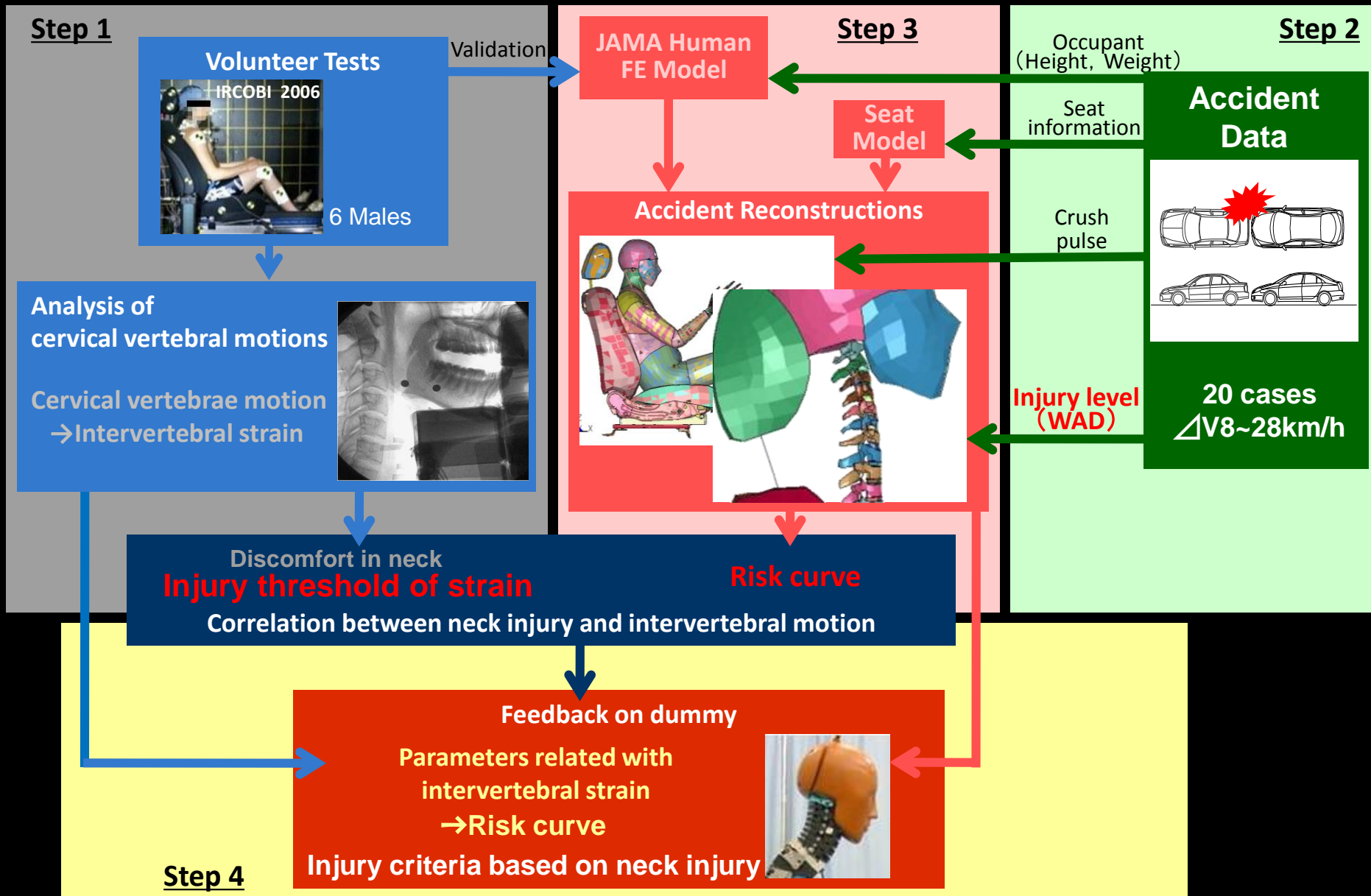
ARS : Accident Reconstruction FE- Model Simulation

- A) Necessary Method for Neck Injury Evaluation**
- B) Research Flow for Clarification on Minor Neck Injury Parameters & Criteria**
- C) Injured Regions in PMHS Tests and Clinical Findings**

A) Necessary Method for Neck Injury Evaluation



B) Research Flow for Clarification on Minor Neck Injury Parameters & Criteria



C) Injured Regions in PMHS Tests and Clinical Findings



PMHS tests : Excessive deflection → Soft tissue injury (Panjabi, 1997; Yoganandan ,1998 and etc.)

Clinical findings : Facet joint injury is most common (Manchikanti et al.,1995 Lord et al.1996, Barnsley et al. and etc.)

PMHS test : Strain rate affects rupture strength of soft tissue (Yoganandan), 2001)

Animal test : Stretch of Facet capsule is related with pain (Lee , 2004 and etc.)

Excessive deflection between vertebrae → Intervertebral soft tissue injury

Prediction of neck injury level by strain and strain rate of intervertebral soft tissue

3. Step1: Human Volunteer Tests

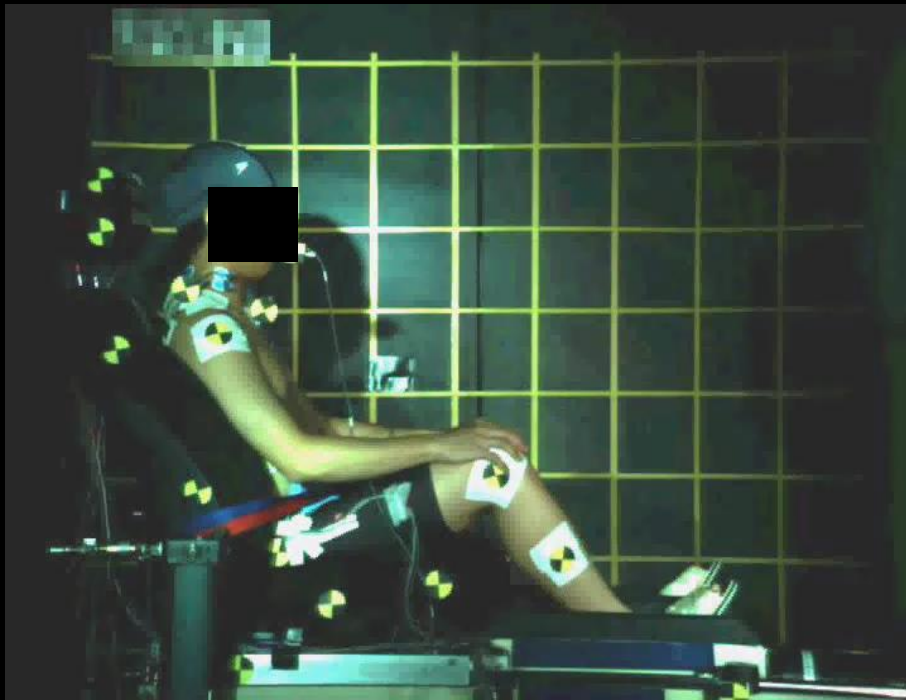
- A) Human Volunteer Test**
- B) Analysis of Cervical Vertebral Motion**
- C) Injury Thresholds based on Cervical Vertebral Motions**
- D) Comparison of Strains/Strain Rates reported by the References**
- E) Threshold of Strain and Strain Rate**
- F) Summary of the Correlations between the Injury Parameters and the Symptoms of the Human Volunteer Tests**

A) Human Volunteer Test

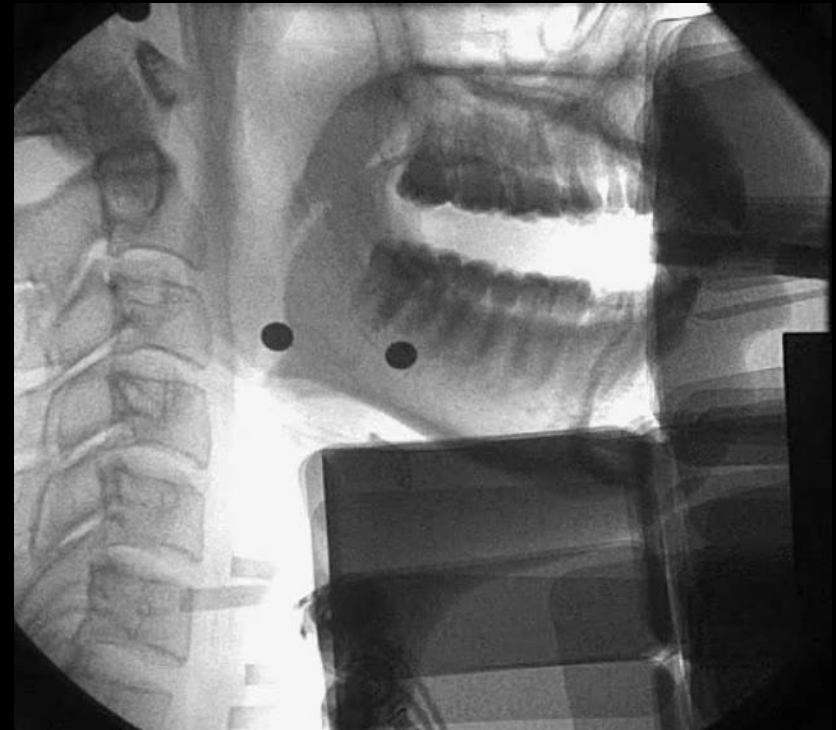
Test Conditions:

Seatback Angle: 25 degree, Sled Acc.: 40m/s^2 , Muscle Tone: Relaxed Condition

Volunteer Motion

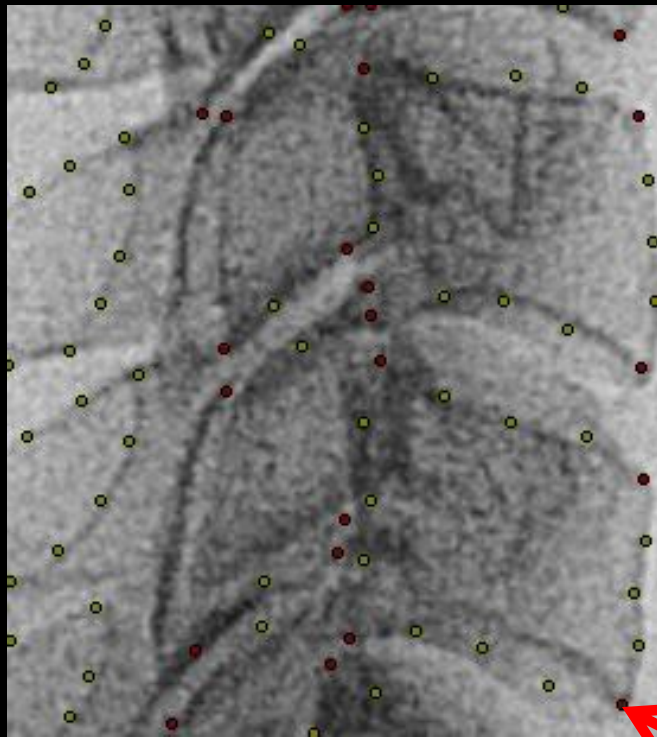


Cervical Vertebral Motion

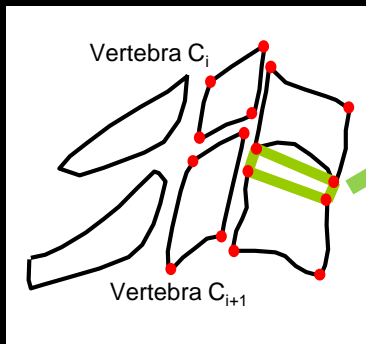


B) Analysis of Cervical Vertebral Motion

Localized deformation between cervical vertebrae

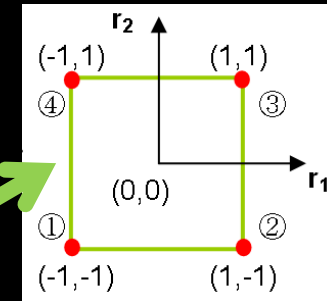


Sequential X-ray image



Representative point

Strain calculation



$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \right)$$

Cervical strain, strain rate

Max. principal strain

$$\varepsilon_{MP} = \frac{\varepsilon_{11} + \varepsilon_{22}}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{\varepsilon_{11} - \varepsilon_{22}}{2} \right)^2 + \varepsilon_{12}^2}$$

Max. shear strain

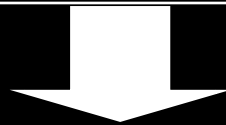
$$\varepsilon_{MS} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\varepsilon_{11} - \varepsilon_{22}}{2} \right)^2 + \varepsilon_{12}^2}$$

Strain rate : Temporal differentiation of strain

C) Injury Thresholds based on Cervical Vertebral Motions

Neck discomfort after experiments

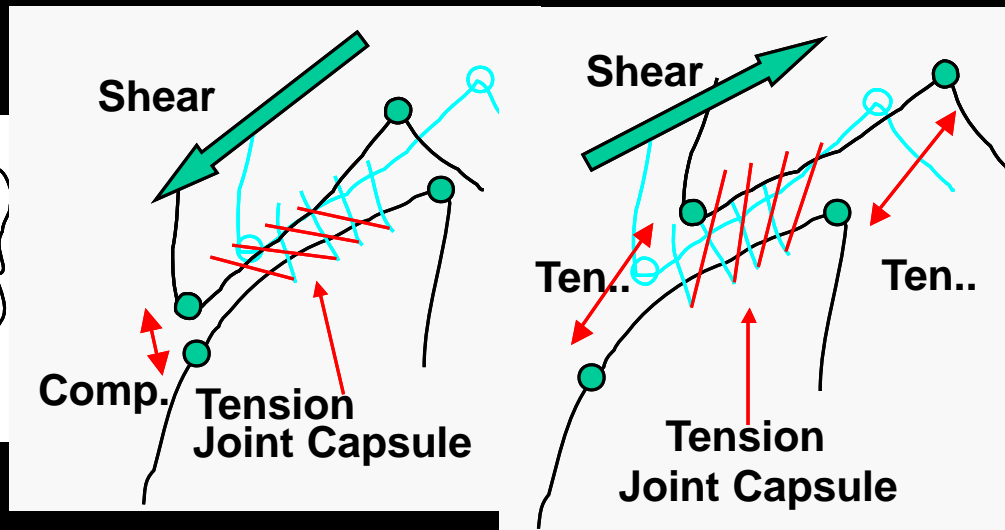
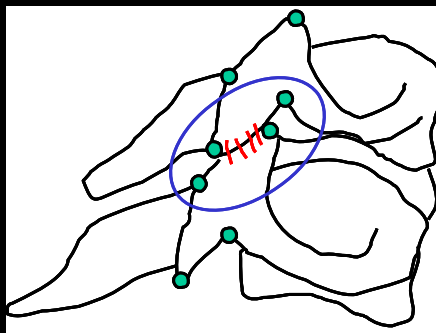
Subjects (Human Vol.)	Neck discomfort
I	Stiff shoulder on test day
II	Stiff shoulder on test day
III	None
IV	None
V	None
VI	Pain in the neck while sleeping on test day



Strain ratios to limitation of physiological motion (%)

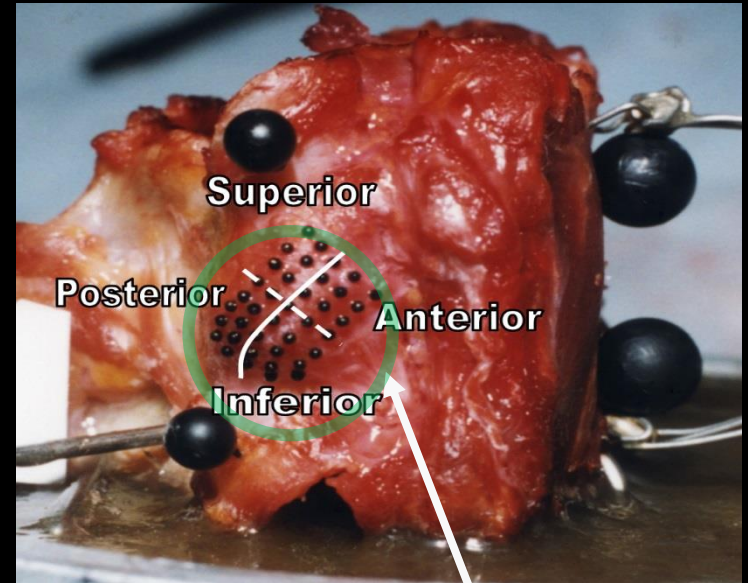
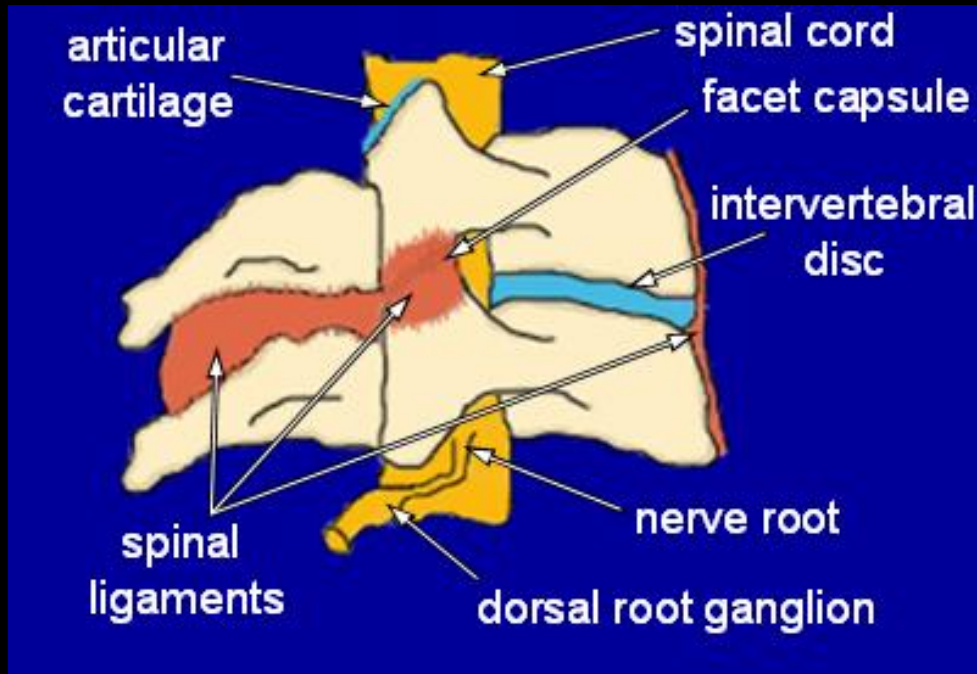
D) Comparison of Strains/Strain Rates reported by the References

Reference	Specimen	Symptom	Strain [%]	Strain rate [mm/s]
This study	Human volunteer	Slight discomfort in neck	129	63
Yoganandan N. et al. (1998)	Human cadaver	Catastrophic failure	149	10
Winkelstein B. A. et al. (1999)	Human cadaver	Catastrophic failure	118 ± 103	100
		Subcatastrophic failure	67 ± 26	100
Siegmund G. P. et al. (2000)	Human cadaver	Catastrophic failure	94 ± 85	0.01
		Subcatastrophic failure	35 ± 21	0.01
Lu Y. et al. (2005)	Goat	Pain in facet joint capsule	47 ± 10	0.5
Lee K. E. et al. (2004)	Rat	Pain in facet joint capsule	28 ± 12	0.1



Relationship between FJ and FJC/Ligament Strains

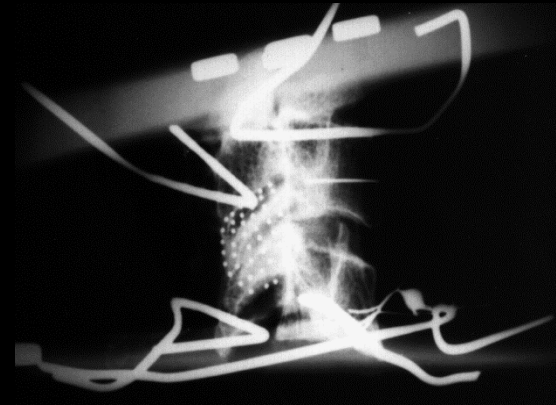
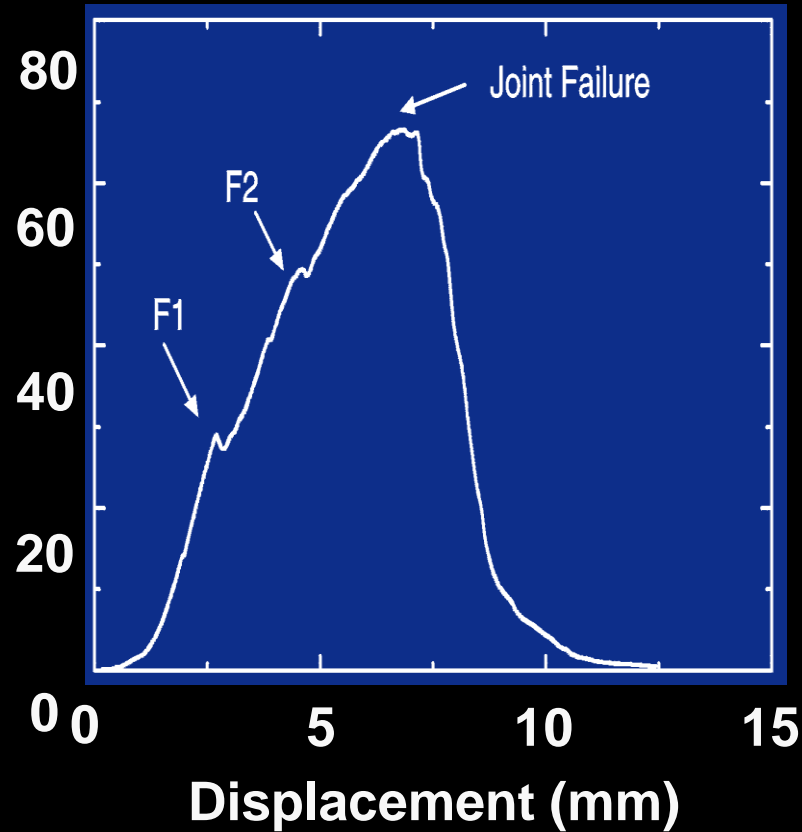
D1) Lateral view of right facet joint



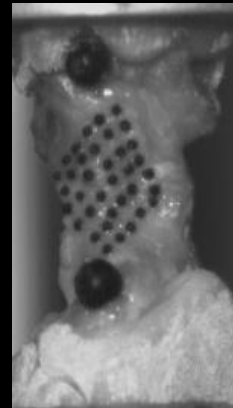
Facet capsule

D2) Facet capsule configuration at failure points

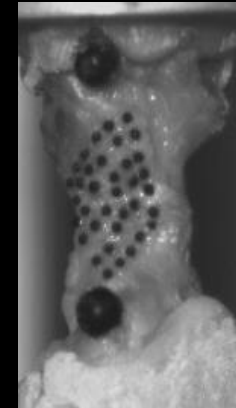
Force (N)



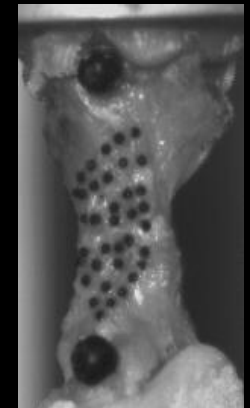
0 min



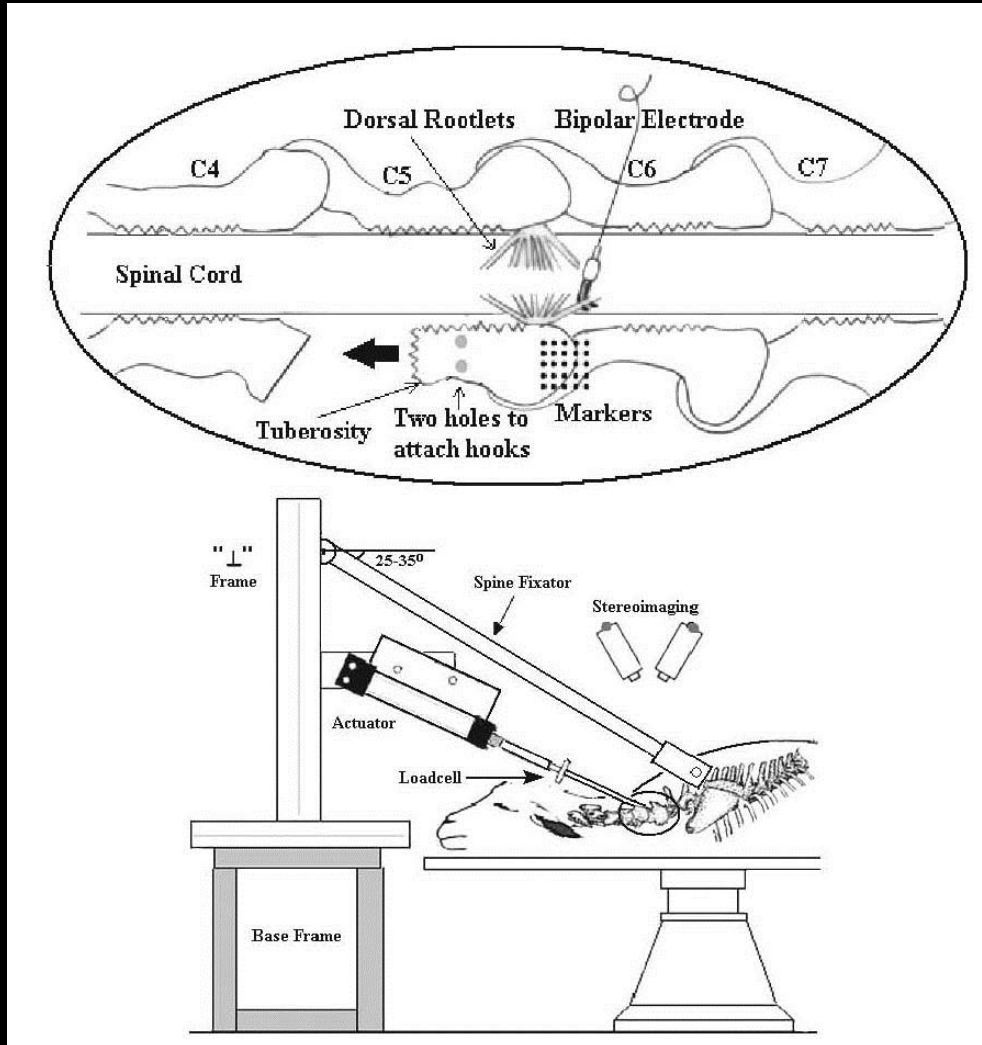
5.75 min
(F1)



14 min
(Failure)



D3) Correlation Experiments between the Pain Sensation and the Strain of FJ Capsular of Animal (Goat)



Lu(WSU)-2005STAPP

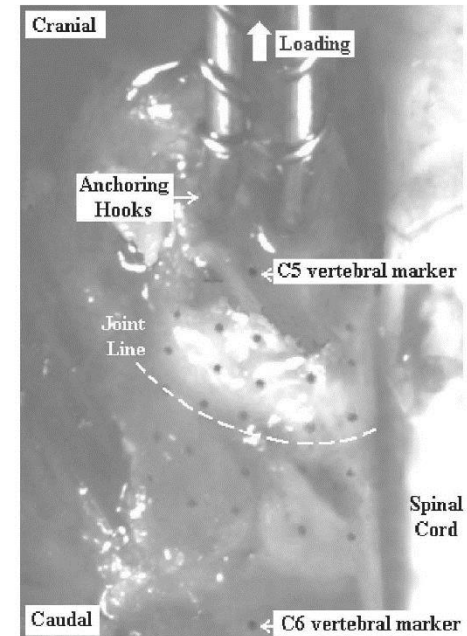
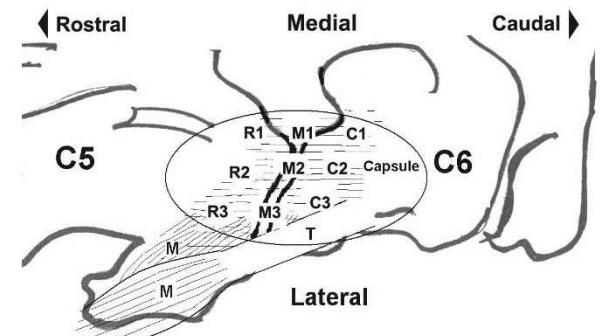


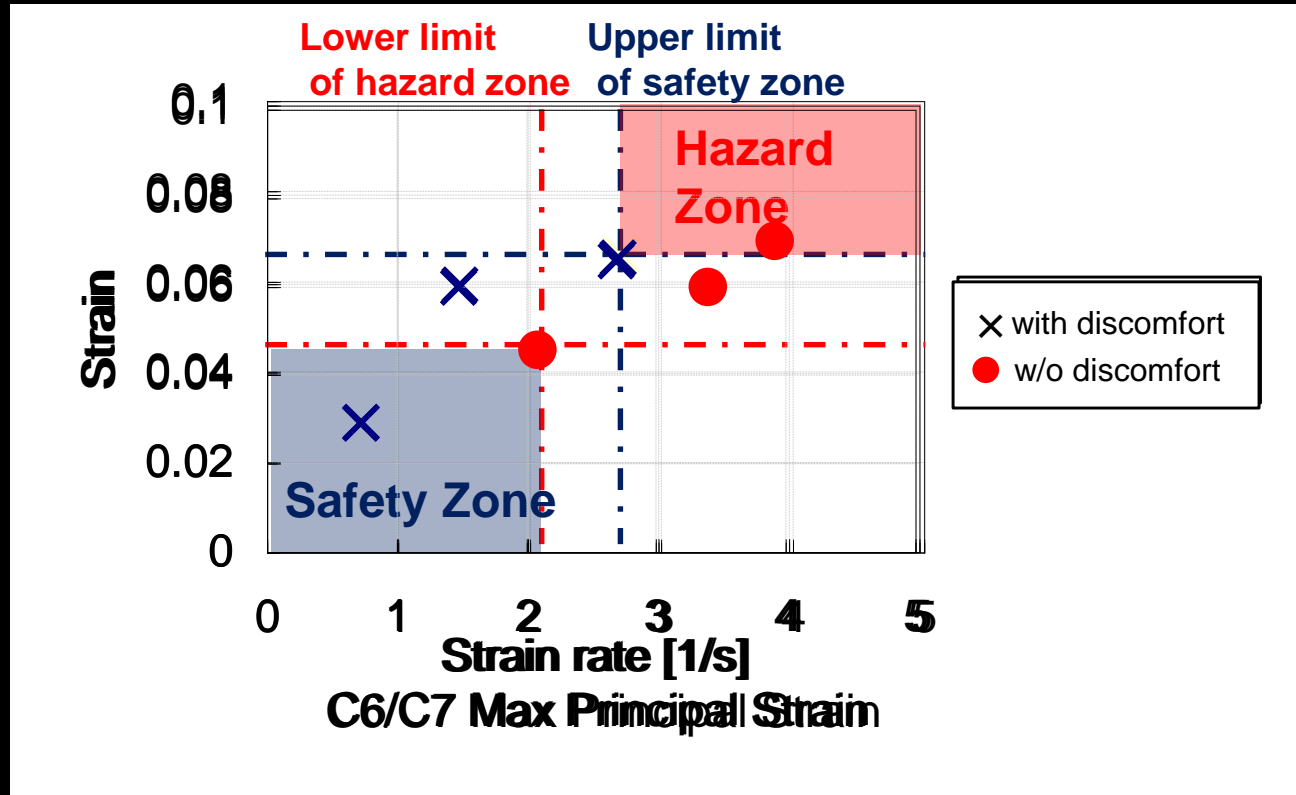
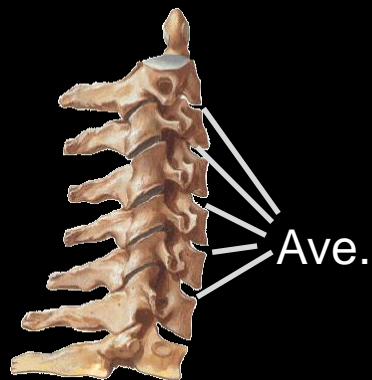
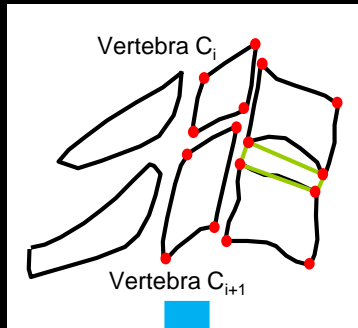
Figure 2: Deformation of a left C5-C6 FJC at 6 mm stretch. The spinal cord is denoted on the right. Also shown are the C5 anchoring hooks, an array of 5 x 5 tantalum spheres and two vertebral markers. (from Lu et al., 2005b)



E) Threshold of Strain and Strain Rate

-with/without discomfort around neck

→Region of cervical intervertebral strain for occurrence of neck discomfort



Threshold	Max. Principal Strain	Max. Shear Strain	Max. Principal Strain rate	Max. Shear Strain Rate
Average (Ave. between C2/C3~C6/C7)	0.06	0.05	2.68	1.81

F) Summary of the Correlations between the Injury Parameters and the Symptoms of the Human Volunteer Tests

Order	Injury Parameters	Max. P. Strain	Max. P. Strain Rate	Correlation with Symptom	Order	Injury Parameters	Shear Strain	Shear Strain Rate	Correlation with Symptom
		R	R				R	R	
1	NIC Max	0.439	0.592	+	1	NIC Max	0.821	0.570	+
2	U Neck My	0.318	0.000	+	2	OC-T1(Disp.)	0.742	0.533	+
3	OC-T1(Disp.)	0.297	0.578	+	3	U Neck Fz	0.514	0.193	+
4	L Neck My	0.290	0.190	+	4	L Neck Fz	0.486	0.219	+
5	H-T angle	0.158	0.389	+	5	U Neck Fx	0.476	0.271	+
6	NDCr	0.156	0.388	+	6	L Neck Fx	0.448	0.351	+
7	L Neck Fx	0.105	0.764	+	7	U Neck My	0.368	0.347	+
8	L Neck Fz	0.100	0.114	+	8	L Neck My	0.285	0.478	+
9	U Neck Fx	0.089	0.735	+	9	NDCr	0.191	0.393	+
10	U Neck Fz	0.077	0.095	+	10	H-T angle	0.191	0.394	+
11	T1G Max	0.828	0.580	-	11	T1G Max	0.704	0.831	-
12	Rebound V	0.170	0.032	-	12	LNL Max	0.514	0.477	-
13	LNL Max	0.077	0.455	-	13	Nkm Max	0.175	0.434	-
14	Nkm Max	0.071	0.522	-	14	Rebound V	0.151	0.447	-

For the J-NCAP assessment program of injury parameters, NFM and NIC were selected. The kinematics of OC-T1 (Disp.) as undefined measurement method was omitted.

4. Step2: Accident Analysis

- A) Accident Data
- B) Accident Reconstruction - FE Model Simulations

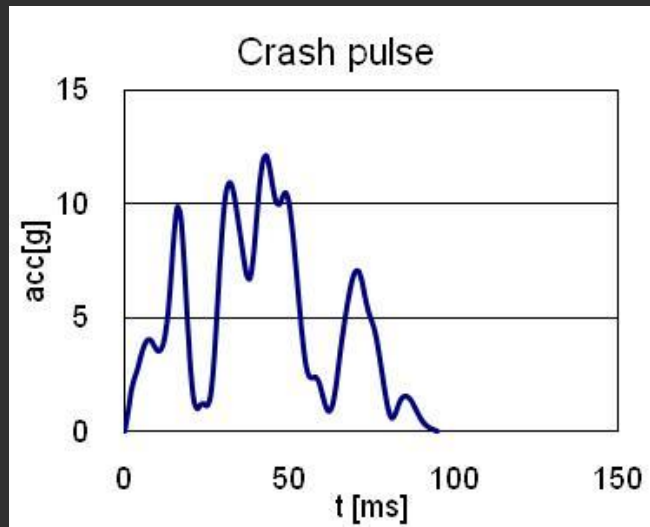
A) Accident Data

Acceleration
Crash Pulse

Injury Level
WAD

Occupant
Height • Weight

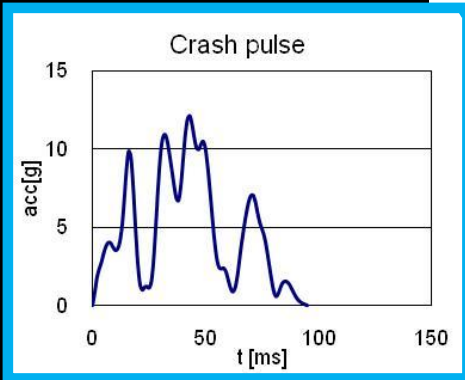
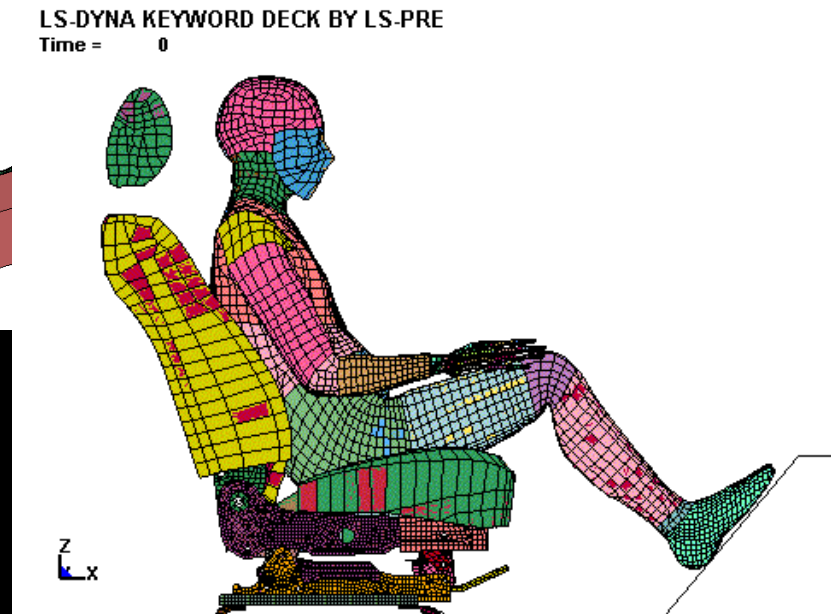
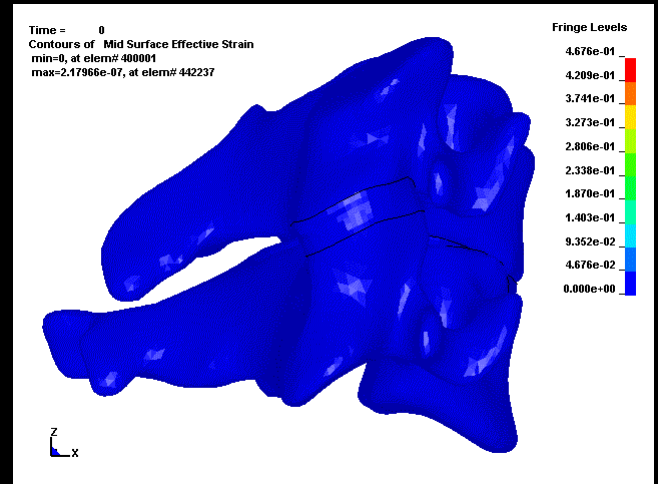
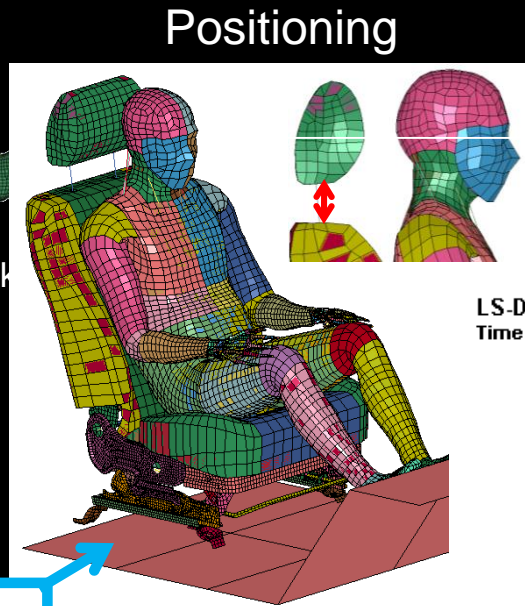
CASE		RECORDED CRASH PULSE			REPORTED INJURY			PASSENGER CHARACTERISTICS			
No.	D/P	Δv [km/h]	Mean Acc.[g]	Peak Acc. [g]	Neck/Spine	Symptoms	WAD	Gender	Age	Height	Weight
1	Driver	28.2	5.8	10.6	Injured	1-6 m	2	F	26	175	55
4	Driver								57	178	100
4	Passenge								57	168	80
2	Driver								59	156	60
8	Driver								22	171	63
8	Passenge								18	179	80
7	Driver								67	167	84
7	Passenge								72	165	63
10	Driver								74	175	62
10	Passenge								74	160	57
6	Driver								59	165	65
6	Passenge								88	170	70
11	Driver								61	176	77
11	Passenge								61	154	69
21	Driver								50	171	85
23	Driver								35	178	65
20	Driver								65	176	82
20	Passenge								68	176	77
24	Driver								35	165	55
3	Driver								35	165	55



**Car acceleration
measured with Crash Pulse Recorder**
 Δv 8 ~ 28 km/h

20
Cases

B) Accident Reconstruction - FE Model Simulations

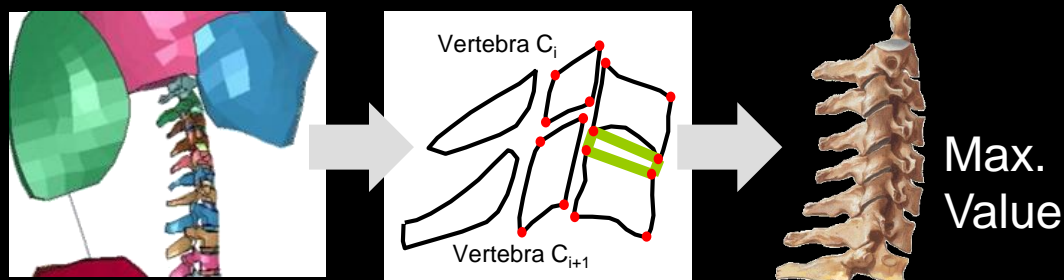


5. Step3: Accident Reconstruction based on FE model

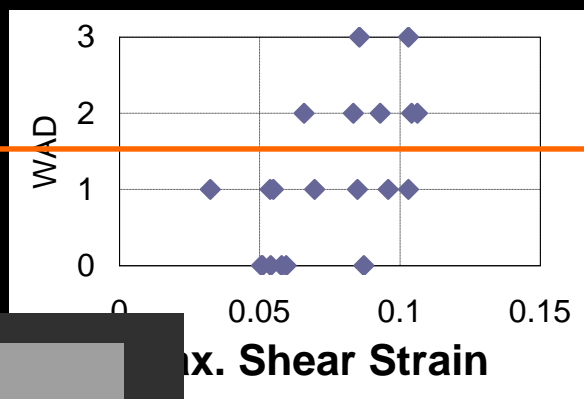
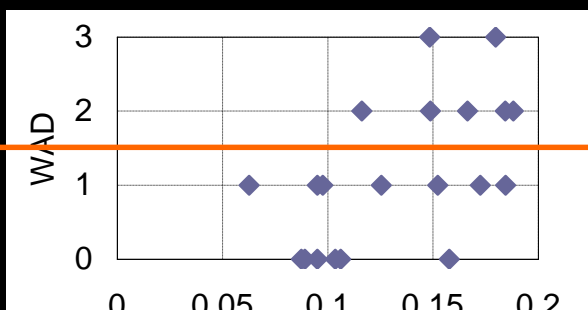
- A) Relationship between Cervical Strain and WAD**
- B) Risk Curves (Cervical Strain and WAD)**
- C) Selection of Neck Injury Evaluation Parameters**
- D) Neck Injury Risk Curve**
- E) Injury Risk Curve (WAD2+/IV-NIC Flx.) CAE: Accident Reconstruction)**

A) Relationship between Cervical Strain and WAD

- ◆ Method to Calculate cervical strain with Volunteers
- ◆ Extract max. value of the strain (C2/C3~C6/C7)

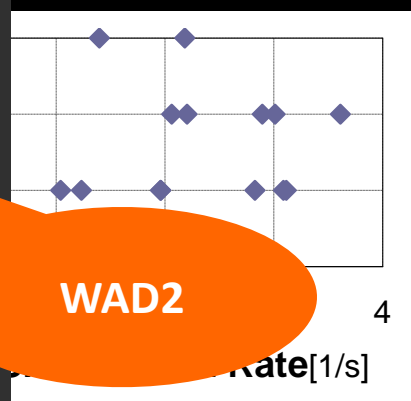


Cervical Strain



Classification of WAD (Whiplash-associated disorders)

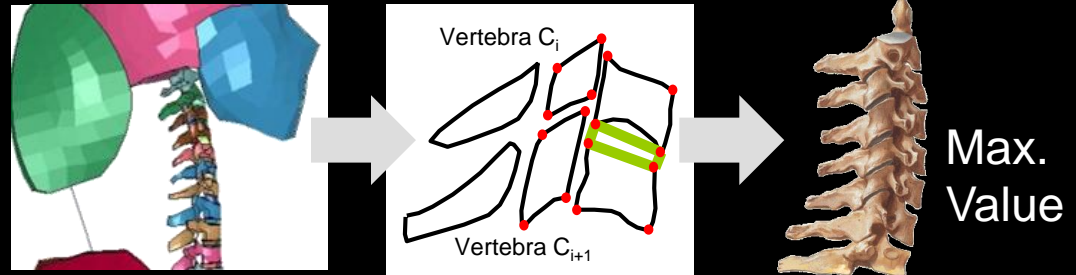
- grade 0: No complaint
- grade 1: Pain, stiffness(no physical sign(s))
- grade 2: Musculoskeletal sign(s)
- grade 3: Neurological sign(s)
- grade 4: Fracture or dislocation



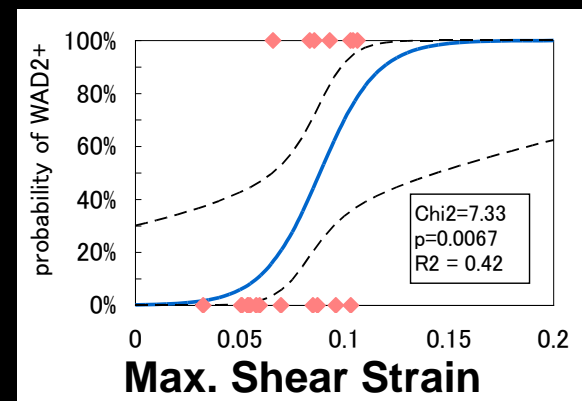
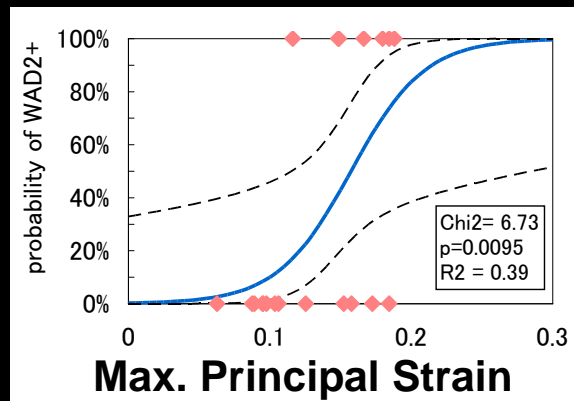
WAD2

B) Risk Curves (Cervical Strain and WAD)

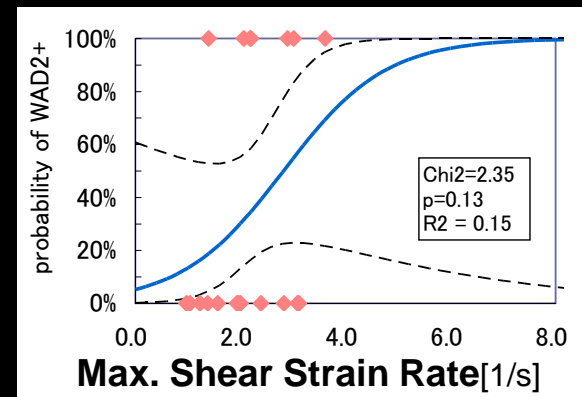
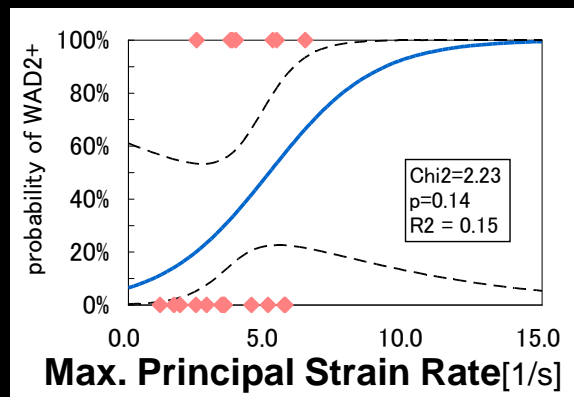
- ◆ Method to Calculate cervical strain with Volunteers
- ◆ Extract max. value of the strain (C2/C3~C6/C7)



Cervical Strain

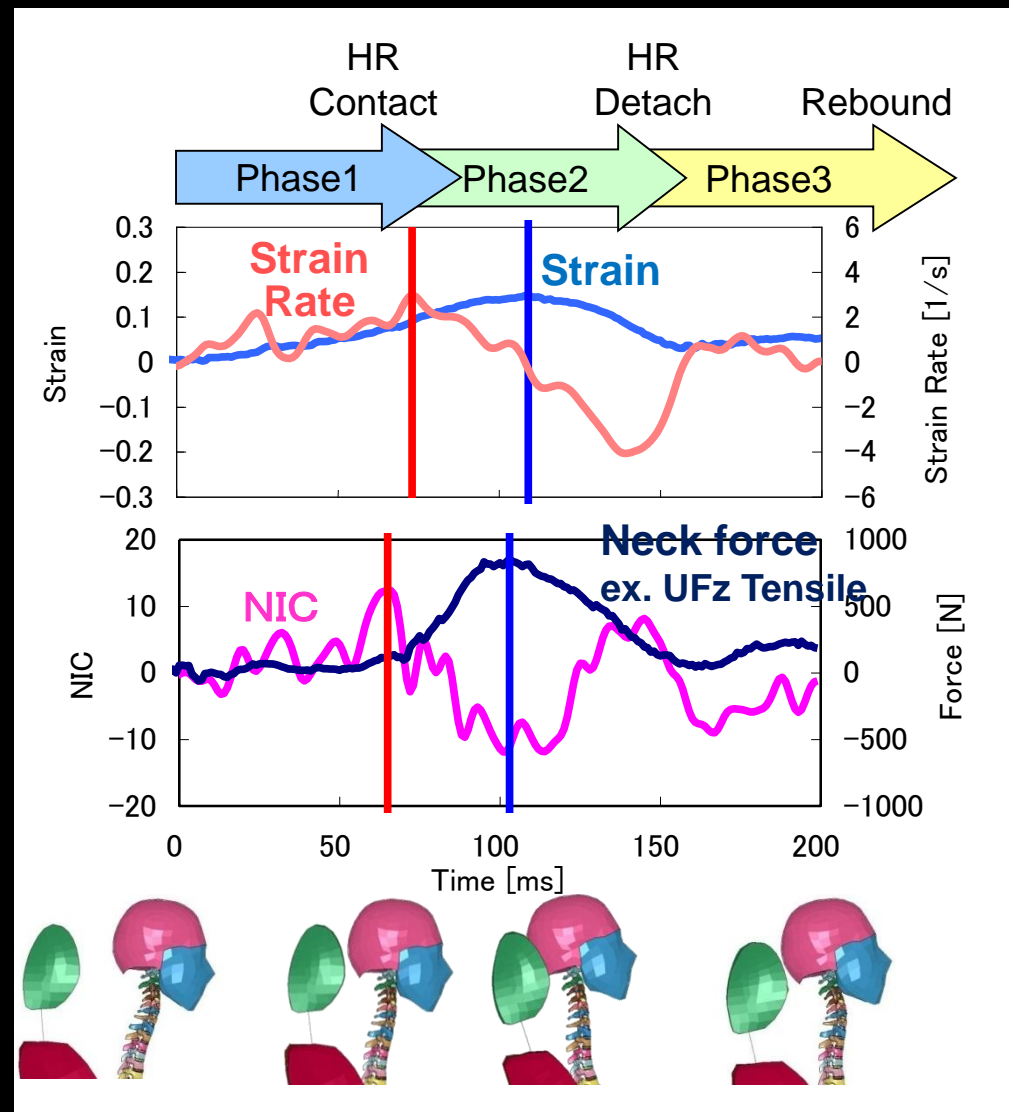


Cervical Strain rate

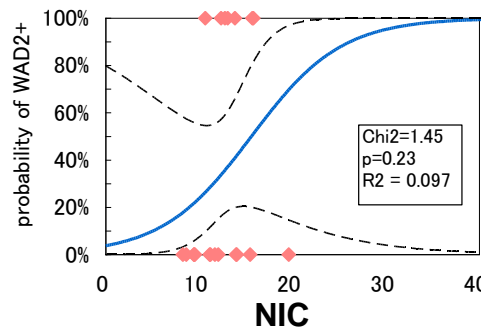
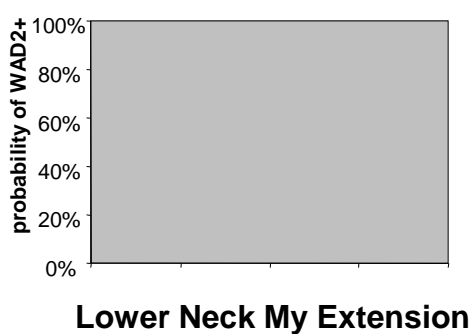
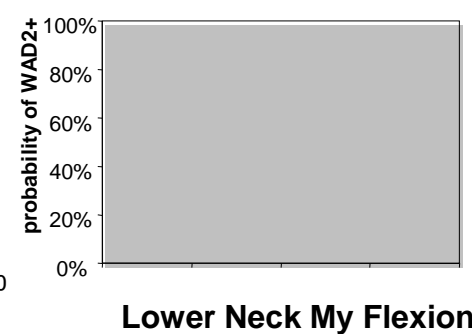
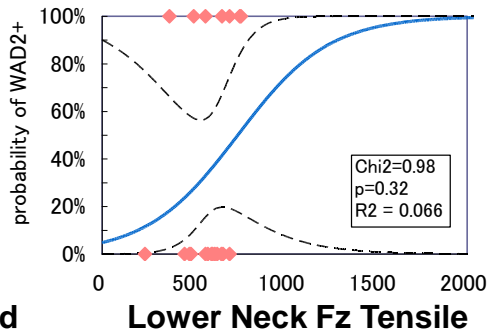
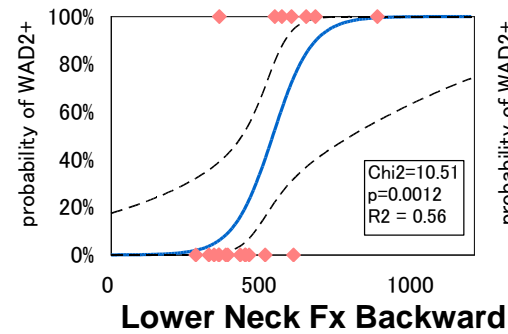
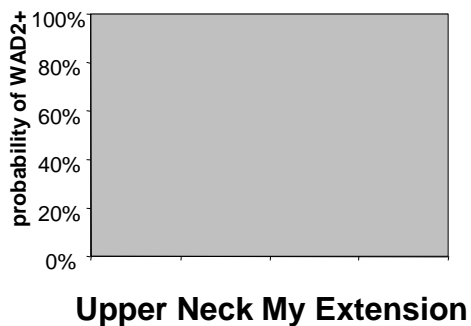
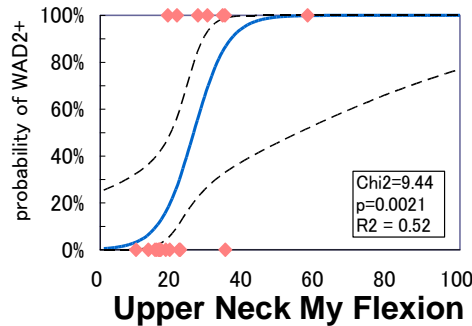
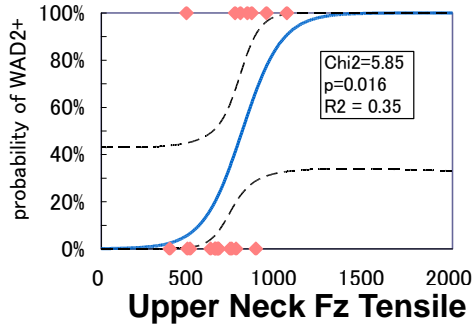
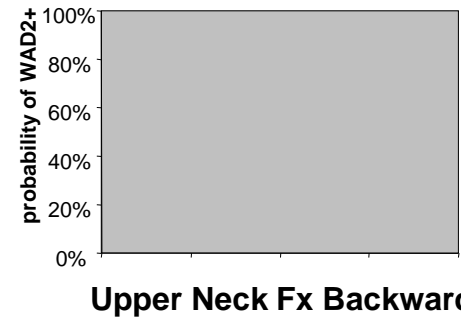


C) Selection of Neck Injury Evaluation Parameters

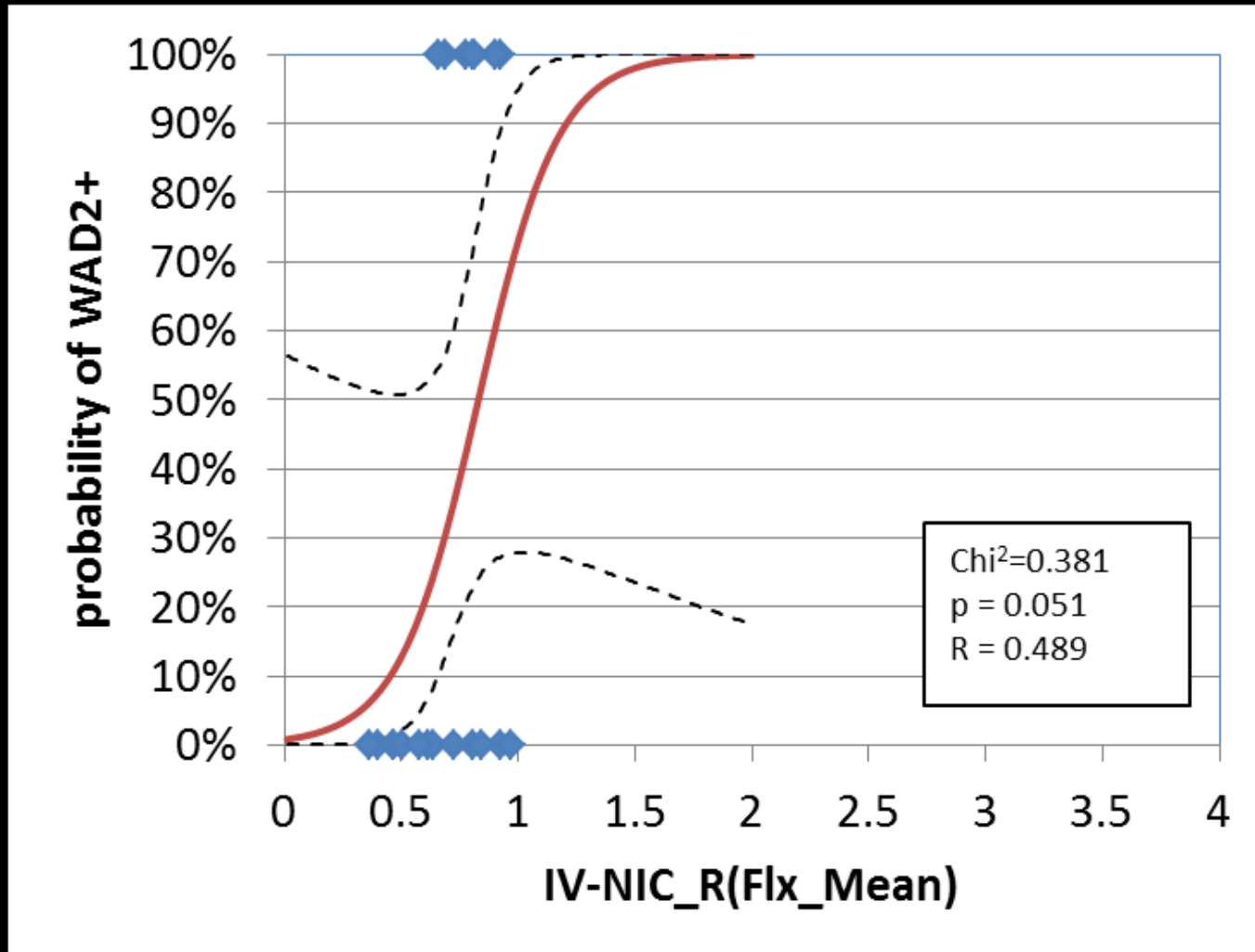
Neck Force	Upper	Fx	Forward
			Backward
		Fz	Tensile
		Compression	
	My	Extension	
		Flexion	
Lower	Fx	Forward	
		Backward	
	Fz	Tensile	
	Compression		
My	Extension		
	Flexion		
NIC			
T1G			
Nkm			
LNL			
Rebound V			
OC-T1 disp			
Head-Chest rot. ang.			



D) Neck Injury Risk Curve



E) Injury Risk Curve (WAD2+/IV-NIC Flx.) CAE: Accident Reconstruction)



6. Draft Proposal on Evaluation of Injury Parameters and Injury Risk Curve, a Collaborative Undertaking between NHTSA and Japan

- A) Common injury evaluation parameter : IV-NIC(R) - Flexion**
- B) Setting methods of neck injury criteria**
- C) Correlations between the Injury Parameters and the Symptom of the Human Volunteer Subjects**
- D) Injury Evaluation Parameters and Injury Criteria**
- E) Injury Evaluation Parameters and Injury Criteria for GTR7 (Proposal)**

A) Common Injury Evaluation Parameter : IV-NIC(R) - Flexion

Japan

• Human Volunteer Test (~6km/h)
• 20 accident cases of FE Simulation
(8~28km/h)

Injury Scale : WAD

Injury evaluation parameters : Strain

Correlation between WAD and Strain

Correlation among Strain and
NIC, NFM

NHTSA/VRTC

• PMHS Test
(16, 17.3, 17.6, 24km/h)

Injury Scale : AIS

Injury evaluation parameters : IV-NIC(R)

Correlation between AIS and IV-NIC(R)

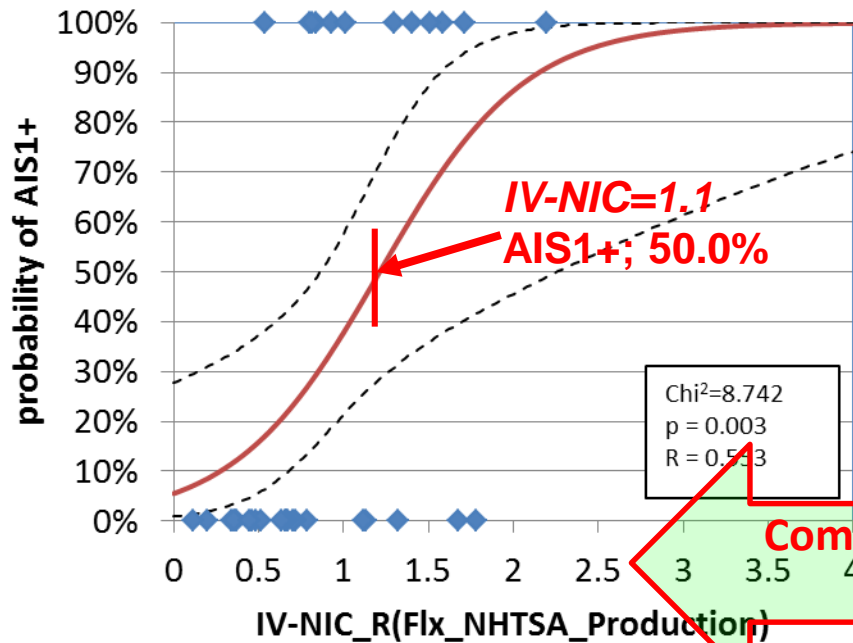
Correlation among Intervertebral Rotation,
NDC, IV-NIC, and NFM

Common injury evaluation parameter : IV-NIC(R) - Flexion

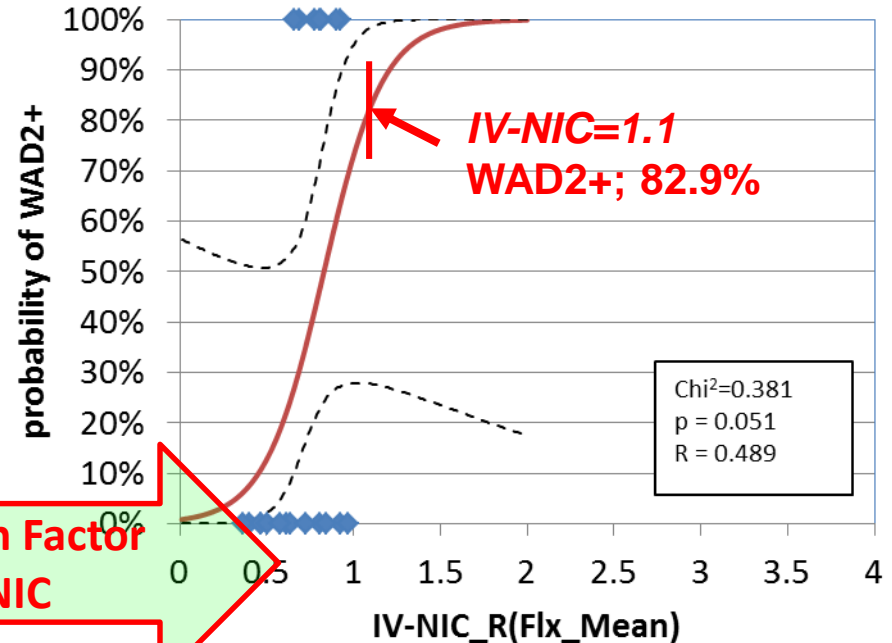
Injury Evaluation Parameters and Injury Criteria for GTR7 (Proposal)

B) Setting Methods of Neck Injury Criteria

- Fig. 1 shows that IV-NIC value corresponding to the AIS1+ 50% on the risk curve obtained by the PMHS Tests (Production seat)
- The IV-NIC value 1.1 corresponds to the AIS1+50% on the risk curve obtained by the PMHS tests shown in Fig.1. This IV-NIC value 1.1 also corresponds to 82.9% of WAD2+ risk curve wrt the IV-NIC.
- The IC of NFM, NIC, and NDCr will be created by WAD2+82.9% based on the risk curve of WAD2+ wrt IV-NIC (see Table on the next E) page).



**Fig. 1 Injury Risk Curve (AIS1+;
PMHS: Production Seat)**



**Fig. 2 Injury Risk Curve (WAD2+;
CAE: Accident Reconstruction)**

C) Correlations between the Injury Parameters and the Symptom of the Human Volunteer Subjects

Order	Injury Parameters	Max. P. Strain	Max. P. Strain Rate	Correlation with Symptom	Order	Injury Parameters	Shear Strain	Shear Strain Rate	Correlation with Symptom
		R	R				R	R	
1	NIC Max	0.439	0.592	+	1	NIC Max	0.821	0.570	+
2	U Neck My	0.318	0.000	+	2	OC-T1(Disp.)	0.742	0.533	+
3	OC-T1(Disp.)	0.297	0.578	+	3	U Neck Fz	0.514	0.193	+
4	L Neck My	0.290	0.190	+	4	L Neck Fz	0.486	0.219	+
5	H-T angle	0.158	0.389	+	5	U Neck Fx	0.476	0.271	+
6	NDCr	0.156	0.388	+	6	L Neck Fx	0.448	0.351	+
7	L Neck Fx	0.105	0.764	+	7	U Neck My	0.368	0.347	+
8	L Neck Fz	0.100	0.114	+	8	L Neck My	0.285	0.478	+
9	U Neck Fx	0.089	0.735	+	9	NDCr	0.191	0.393	+
10	U Neck Fz	0.077	0.095	+	10	H-T angle	0.191	0.394	+
11	T1G Max	0.828	0.580	-	11	T1G Max	0.704	0.831	-
12	Rebound V	0.170	0.032	-	12	LNL Max	0.514	0.477	-
13	LNL Max	0.077	0.455	-	13	Nkm Max	0.175	0.434	-
14	Nkm Max	0.071	0.522	-	14	Rebound V	0.151	0.447	-

The OC-T1 (Disp.) as undefined measurement method was omitted. The H-T angle was also excluded due to overlapping with the NDCr.

D) Injury Evaluation Parameters and Injury Criteria

Japan

- Human Volunteer/Accident Reconstruction
- Injury scale : WAD
- Injury Evaluation Parameters
- Neck Forces/Moment, NIC

NHTSA/VRTC

- PMHS tests
- Injury scale : AIS
- Injury Evaluation Parameters
- Intervertebral Rotation, IV-NIC, NDC, NFM

Common injury evaluation parameters : IV-NIC(R) · Flexion

AIS 1+ = 50%

Common Indicator - IV-NIC(R) · Flexion value = 11

WAD 2+ = 82.9%

Decision made by the Correlations
between the Injury Parameters and the
Symptoms of the Human Volunteer Tests

Injury evaluation parameters for BioRID-II :

NIC
UpperNeck-FX
UpperNeck-MY(Flx/Ext)
LowerNeck-FX
LowerNeck-MY(Flx/Ext)

Injury evaluation parameters for BioRID-II :

NIC
IV-NIC (R) · Flexion
Intervertebral Rotation · Flexion
NDCrot
NDCx
Neck Forces/Moments In progress

Harmonization
(Suggest Common Criteria)

Injury Evaluation Parameters and Injury Criteria for GTR7 (Proposal)

E) Injury Evaluation Parameters and Injury Criteria for GTR7 (Proposal)

Injury Criteria		WAD2+	AIS1+	Literature Human Tolerance
		82.9% Value (IV-NIC=1.1)	50.0% Value (IV-NIC=1.1)	
NDCrot		?	12.2 deg.	
NIC Max		22	29.7	-
Upper Neck	FX	640	?	845 ^{1), 2)}
	MY(Flx/Ext)	34	?	50.2 ²⁾
Lower Neck	FX	640	?	600~800 ³⁾
	MY(Flx/Ext)	34	?	-
		Japan works	NHTSA works	

Units:
Force (N)
Moment (Nm)

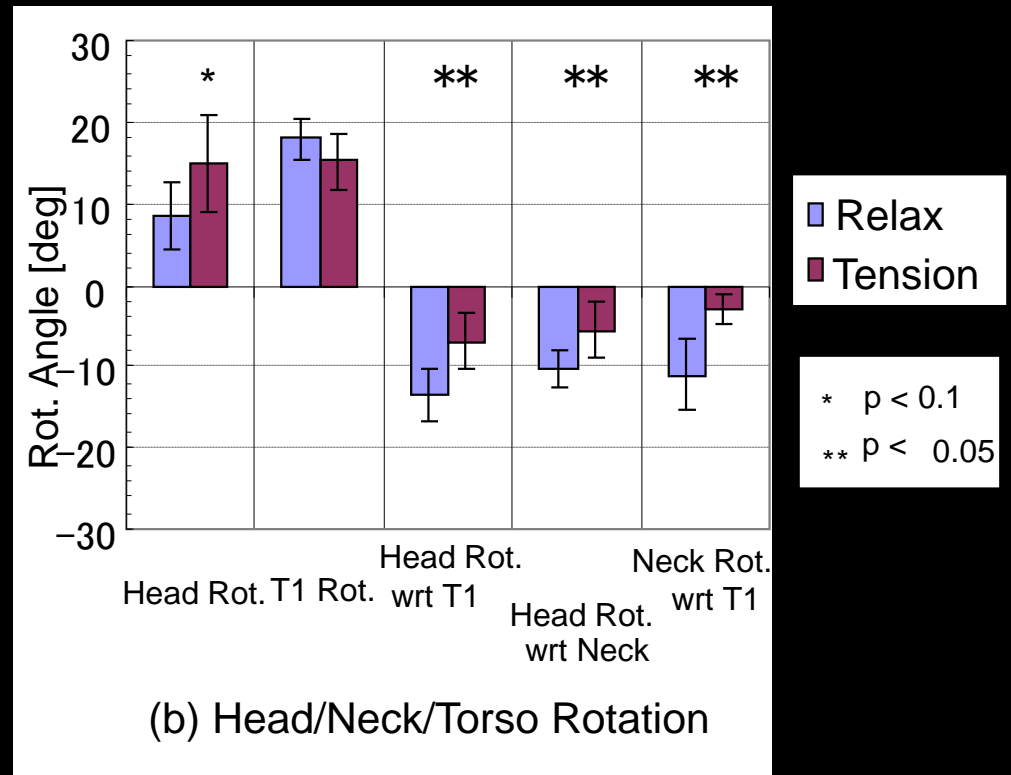
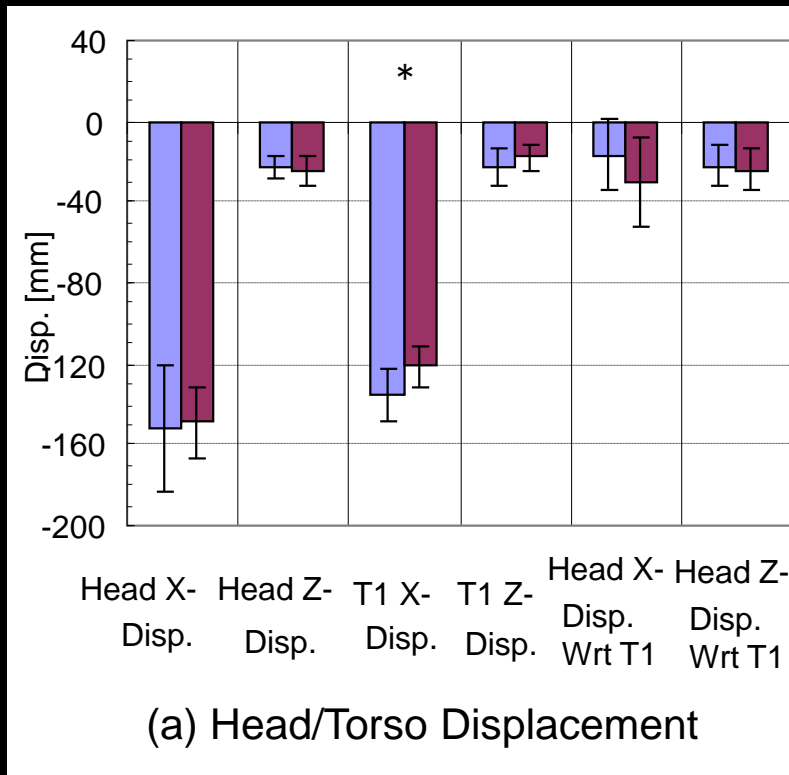
References:

- 1) Mertz, 1971, Strength and Response of the Human Neck, 15th STAPP
- 2) SAE J885, 2003, Human Tolerance to Impact Condition as related to Motor Vehicle Design
- 3) Stemper, 2009, Verification of Lower Neck Shear Force as a Rear Impact Injury Criterion

7. Influence of Muscle Conditions to Cervical Vertebral Motions

- A) Comparison of Head/Neck/Torso behavior between the relaxed and tensed conditions**
- B) Comparison of Cervical vertebral motion between the relaxed and tensed conditions**
- C) Influence of Muscle Conditions to Cervical Vertebral Motions**

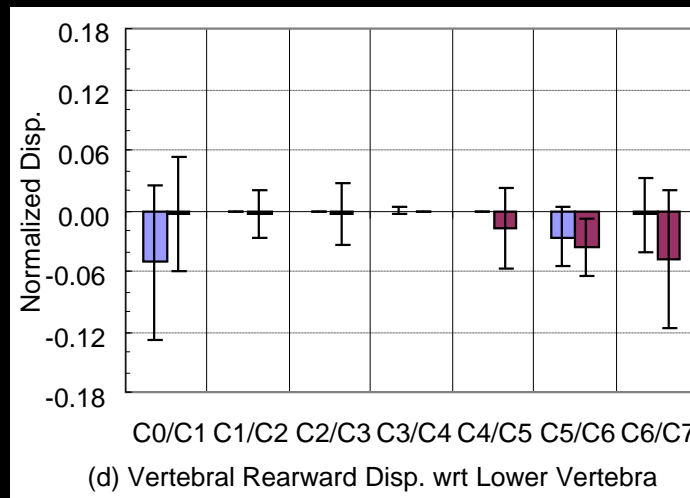
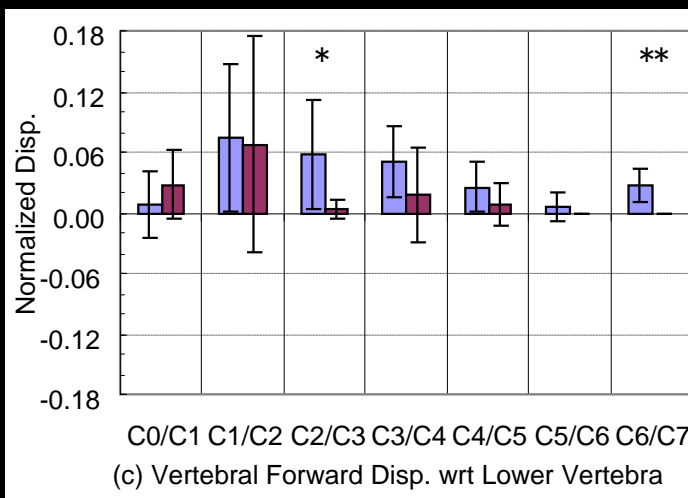
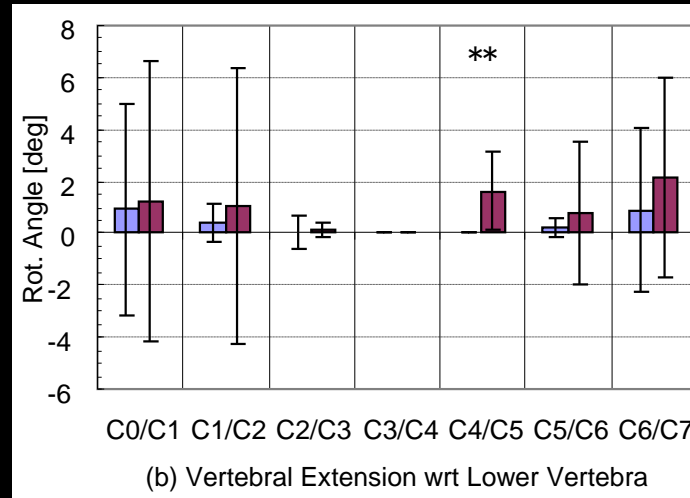
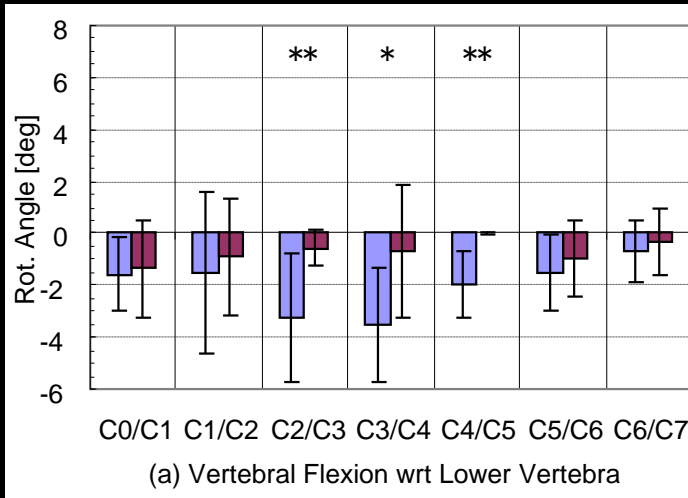
A) Comparison of Head/Neck/Torso behavior between the relaxed and tensed conditions



Relax
Tension

* $p < 0.1$
** $p < 0.05$

B) Comparison of Cervical vertebral motion between the relaxed and tensed conditions

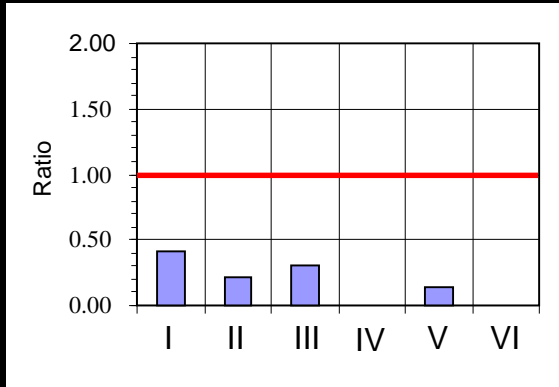


■ Relax
■ Tension

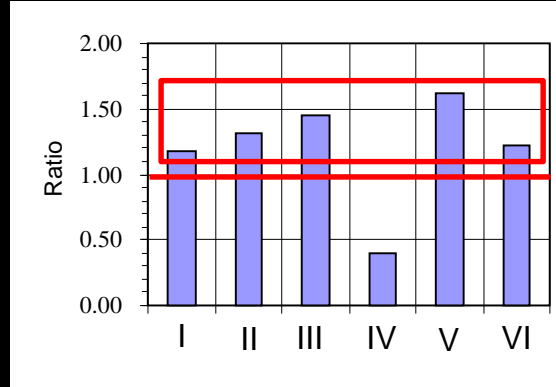
 * p < 0.1
 ** p < 0.05

C) Influence of Muscle Conditions to Cervical Vertebral Motions

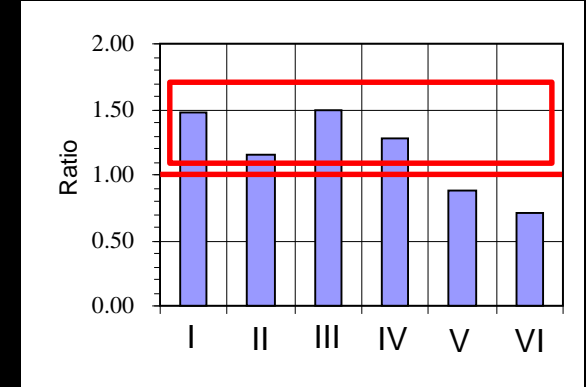
Comparison of Strains between Relaxed and Tensed Muscle Conditions



Upper Facet Joint Strains
(Tension Strains)



Lower Facet Joint Strains
(Rearward Shear Strains)



Lower Facet Joint Strains
(Compression Strains)

Upper Facet Joint Strains (Tension)

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{\text{Strain by Tensed Condition}}{\text{Strain by Relaxed Condition}}$$

It is definite to point out that it is very hard to evaluate the minor neck injuries only by OC-T1 kinematics.

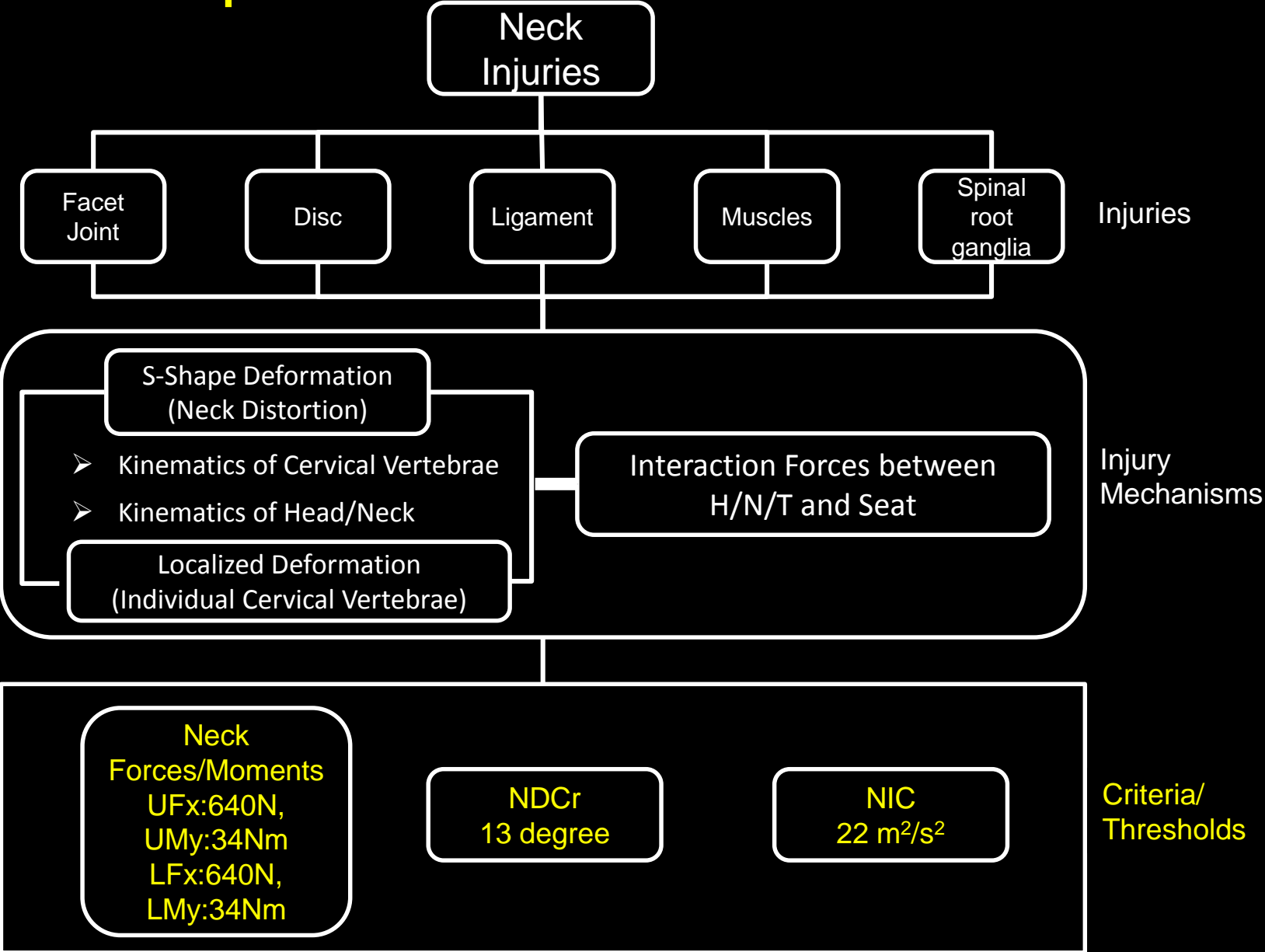
Relaxed < Tensed

Relaxed < Tensed

Conclusions

In the past, an evaluation method for minor neck injuries did not exist. Now, the evaluation parameters and thresholds for the reduction of minor neck injuries are obtained.

Summarized Minor Neck Injury Parameters & Criteria for Rear Impacts



Conclusions (Continued)

- The published papers including the data and the current available knowledge for a reduction of minor neck injuries on rear-end impacts was successful reviewed.
- The proper neck injury evaluation parameters and the injury criteria based on HVT, ARS, and PMHS into the regulation documents of the informal GTR7 was well clarified.
- Based on the results of volunteer tests, the threshold of the strain and the strain rate that caused subjects to feel neck discomfort (minor neck injuries) during the tests were well defined.
- The relationship between the strain/strain rate and parameters was investigated based on the results of HVT, ARS, and PMHS. The parameters which have good correlations with the strain/strain rate were selected as evaluation parameters (IV-NIC) for neck injury.
- The IV-NIC value 1.1 corresponds to the AIS1+50% on the risk curve obtained by the PMHS tests. This IV-NIC value 1.1 also corresponds to 82.9% of WAD2+ risk curve wrt the IV-NIC.

Conclusions (Continued)

- The IC of NFM, NIC, and NDCr will be created by WAD2+82.9% based on the risk curve of WAD2+ wrt IV-NIC.
- The risk curve for causation of neck injuries were clarified as neck injury criteria based on HVT, ARS, and PMHS into the regulation documents of the informal GTR7.
- The risk curve of WAD2+ concerning neck forces/moments, NIC, and NDCr based on the results of HVT, ARS, and PMHS was recommended.
- It is definite to point out that it is very hard to evaluate the minor neck injuries only by OC-T1 (NDCr) kinematics.
- A draft proposal on injury evaluation parameters and injury risk curve, based on the collaboration with NHTSA and Japan was suggested.
- It should similarly be proposed as the neck injury evaluation parameters and the neck injury criteria for the informal GTR7.

Thank you for your attention.

**If you have any comments and questions,
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