

Cervicothoracic orthosis

Cervicothoracic orthoses (CTO) incorporate some form of body vest to immobilize the [cervical spine](#).

The following are presented in increasing degree of immobilization.

Guilford brace: essentially a ring around the occiput and chin connected by two posts to anterior and posterior thoracic pads.

SOMI brace: acronym for Sternal Occipital Mandibular Immobilizer. Good for bracing against flexion (especially upper cervical spine). Inadequate for hyper-extension type injuries because of weak occipital support. Has special forehead attachment to allow patient to eat comfortably without mandibular support.

“**Yale brace**”: a sort of extended [Philadelphia collar](#). The most effective CTO for bracing against flexion-extension and rotation. The major shortcoming is poor prevention of lateral bending (only ≈ 50% reduced).

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