

# Ligamentous Injury

- Best imaging method is T2W FS or STIR MR
  - Abnormal T2 hyperintensity or gross discontinuity of spinal ligamentous structure
- Flexion-extension films: Segmental instability
  - > 3.5 mm subluxation
- STIR and T2WI FS to evaluate spinal ligamentous injury
  - Normal ligament should be thin, contiguous, and low in signal intensity on both T1 and T2WI
  - Increased signal within ligamentous structure indicative of edema, hemorrhage, or inflammation (stretch injury, strain, partial tear)
  - Complete discontinuity of ligamentous structure on T2WI indicative of disruption

