Overview of Quebec Task Force  
Clinical Classification of Whiplash Associated Disorders

<table>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Clinical Presentation</th>
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| Grade 0 or WAD 0 | • Client does not complain of neck pain and no physical signs are observed by the examining health care practitioner.  
• These clients are uncommon and will not usually seek assistance, thus going undocumented. |
| Grade 1 or WAD I | • Client complains of pain to health practitioner.  
• No physical signs are found i.e. normal range of motion, normal strength, no swelling.  
• Usually these clients suffer from small muscle lesions that are not significant enough to cause muscle spasm. |
| Grade 2 or WAD II | • Client complains of pain to health practitioner.  
• Musculoskeletal signs are found that could include:  
  o Limited range of motion  
  o Spasm or Swelling  
  o Point tenderness in neck or shoulders  
• Usually these clients have sprained ligaments in their neck and the muscle tears have caused bleeding and swelling. |
| Grade 3 or WAD III | • Client complains of pain to health practitioner.  
• Neurological signs are found that could include:  
  o Decreased or absent reflexes  
  o Decreased or limited skin sensation (Dermatomes)  
  o Muscular weakness (Myotomes)  
• Usually these clients suffer from injuries to the neurologic system because of pressure on nerves or irritation secondary to sustained stretch of neural tissue.  
• These clients will almost always have limited range of motion and other musculoskeletal signs as well. |
| Grade 4 or WAD IV | • Client complains of pain to health practitioner.  
• X-rays reveal fracture or dislocation |

- All clients with complaints of pain and musculoskeletal signs should be x-rayed (Grades II and above)  
- Grade IV diagnosis requires IMMEDIATE surgical consultation.


For further information about WADs, feel free to contact Sibley & Associates at 1-800-363-8900.