

**To the Editor:**

I would like to comment on the article entitled "Thoraco-Lumbar Spinal Instability during Variations of the Log-Roll Maneuver," by Suter et al in the April/June 1992 Journal. I found the article interesting and informative. I noticed, however, that one method was not studied. The log-roll method which I have seen used most commonly is that which raises the arm which would be under the patient above the head. I would be as curious to know if the authors considered this method as, in the Virginias at least, it is the most commonly used method.

I also noticed that, in the second paragraph of the study, the authors state that, "One approach to this problem might be the development of devices which would reduce spinal motion when applied to a victim prior to movement. However, even if such specialized equipment were designed, making it widely available could be problematic." We do, in fact, already have such a device. It is called the orthopedic or "scoop" stretcher. It can be used to pick up the patient and place them on a backboard without changing their position. It should not be used as a substitute for a backboard, but it is very effective under the patient and is, likewise, easily removed once the patient is on the backboard.

Proper use of the scoop stretcher theoretically should result in no movement of the spine. It would be interesting to see the scoop stretcher used in a similar study. The authors are to be congratulated for taking on such a common procedure. If a log-roll is to be used, I suspect that the authors have found the best procedure for doing so. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

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**PECEMS APPENDICES** from page 217

## Appendix A

**Potential Benefits for the Community at Large**

- Reduced insurance premiums and cost to the community
- Reduced legal liability exposure for the community
- Enhanced safety in the community
- Positive image of the community
- Reduced compensation costs: wages, medical expenses
- Reduced absenteeism
- Reduced morbidity: sickness
- Reduced mortality: death
- Incentive for new arrivals: communities benefits package
- Increased community spirit: the administration and community leaders care and feel responsible

## Appendix B

**PECEMS Task Force****Convenor**

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