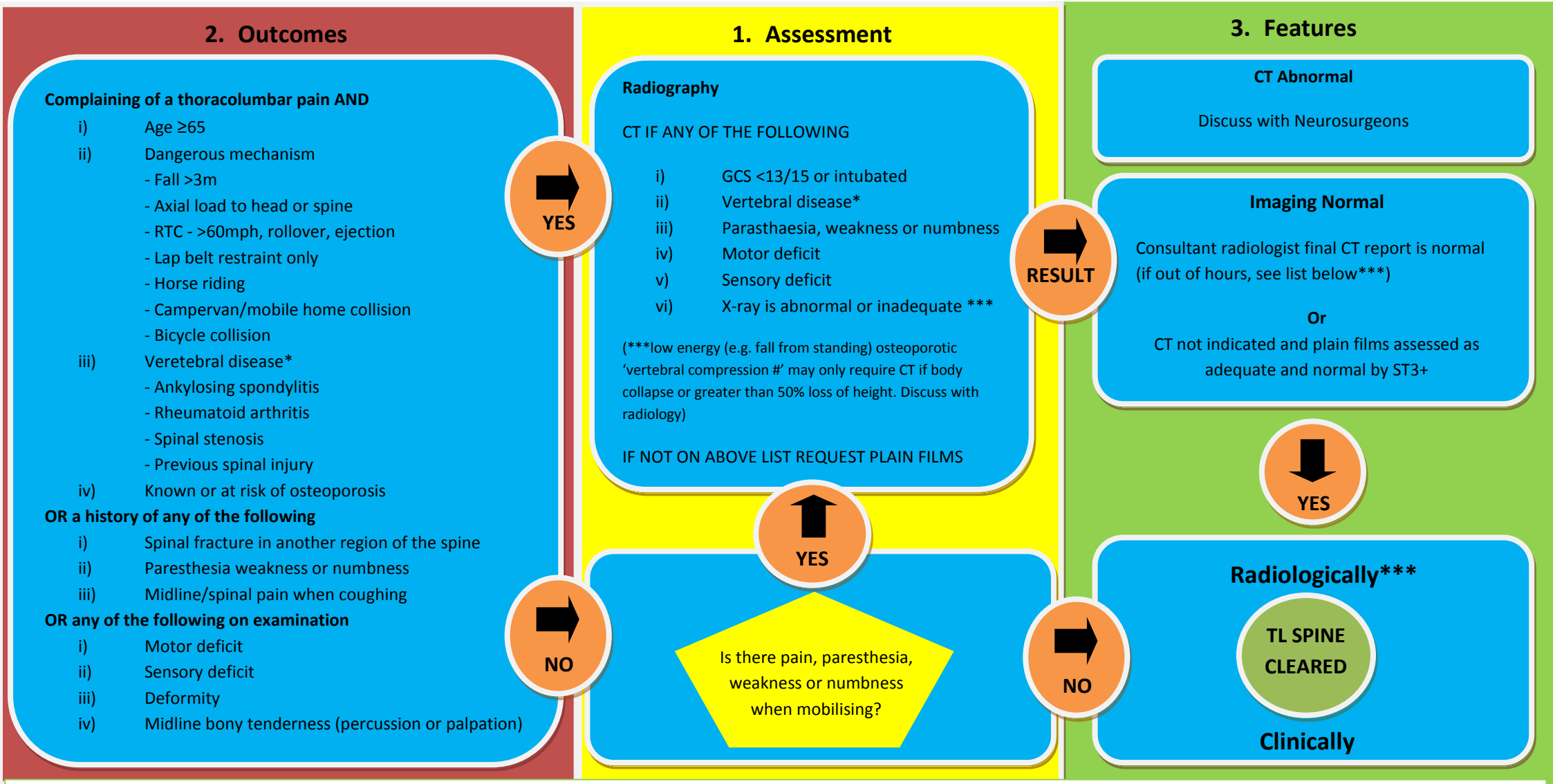
18.8. Assessing and Imaging the Thoracolumbar Spine



Thoracolumbar spine cleared radiologically***

1. Patients fit for general ward/discharge with a provisional, typed 'normal' CT report, may have TL spine cleared clinically by ST3 or equivalent. (This **must** be documented)
2. Normal CT with motor or sensory deficit, paresthesia, weakness or numbness at rest or when mobilising should remain immobilised and be considered for MRI after discussion with radiologist/neurosurgeon.
3. Obtunded patients should be assessed clinically when alert, but this should not delay thoracolumbar spine clearance.