Trauma within last 24 hr, GCS 14-15, age>16

Objective to identify injuries requiring intervention
- applies to those with LOC, amnesia, or disorientation
- not applicable to patients on anticoagulants

CT indicated if any of below:

- Suspected skull fracture
- Vomiting x2/
  age>64 yr
- physical sign of basilar skull fx
- GCS<15 2 hr post injury
- dangerous mechanism of injury*

* Dangerous mechanism defined as: pedestrian struck by motor vehicle, occupant ejected from motor vehicle, fall from height >3 feet or 5 stairs

Stiell IG et al. The Canadian CT Head Rule for Patients with Minor Head Injury. Lancet. 2001 May 5;357(9266):1391-6

This guideline was ratified by the emergency department faculty at Maine Medical Center in February 2010. It reflects our expert opinion and is not necessarily applicable to all institutions. It is intended to be a reference for clinicians caring for patients and is not intended to replace providers’ clinical judgment.

Produced by: William Gregorie, MD, Megan Fix, MD, and Jeff Holmes, MD
# Recommendation | Source | Classification | Level of Evidence
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1 | CT Head indicated for those with loss of consciousness, posttraumatic amnesia or disorientation and: age>64, vomiting>2x, sign of basilar skull fx, GCS<15 2hr after injury, or dangerous mechanism of injury | Stiel et al, The Canadian CT Head Rule for patients with minor head trauma. Lancet 2001 | prospective cohort | B
2 | | Smits et al, External validation of the Canadian CT Head Rule and the new Orleans Criteria for CT scanning in patients with minor head injury. JAMA 2006 | prospective randomized control | B
3 | | | |