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## TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

# Canadian CT Head Rule

CT head is only required for minor injury patients with any one of these findings:

### High risk (for neurological intervention)

1. GCS score  $< 15$  at 2 hours after injury
2. Suspected open or depressed skull fracture
3. Any sign of basal skull fracture\*
4. Vomiting  $\geq 2$  episodes
5. Age  $\geq 65$  years

### Medium risk (for brain injury on CT)

6. Amnesia before impact  $\geq 30$  min
7. Dangerous mechanism\*\*  
(pedestrian, occupant ejected, fall from elevation)

#### \* Signs of basal skull fracture

- Hemotympanum, 'raccoon' eyes, CSF otorrhea/ rhinorrhea, Battle's sign.

#### \*\* Dangerous mechanism

- Pedestrian struck by vehicle.
- Occupant ejected from motor vehicle.
- Fall from elevation  $\geq 1$  metre or 5 stairs.

#### Rule not applicable if:

- Non-trauma cases.
- GCS  $< 13$ .
- Age  $< 16$  years.
- Coumadin or bleeding disorder.
- Obvious open skull fracture.