Pediatric Head Trauma CT Decision Guide

Age < 2 yrs

** Severe Mechanism of Injury
- Fall > 3 ft
- MVA w/ ejection, rollover, or fatality
- Bike/ped vs. Vehicle w/o helmet
- Struck by high-impact object

- GCS < 15
- Palpable skull fracture
- AMS (agitation, somnolence, slow response, repetitive questioning)

- Scalp Hematoma (excluding frontal)
- LOC
- Not acting normally per parent
- * Severe mechanism of injury

** Observation vs. CT Head using shared decision-making

Clinical factors used to guide decision making:
- Multiple vs. Isolated factors
- Worsening findings during observation (vomiting, AMS, HA)
- Physician experience
- Parental preference
- < 3 months old

** Observation entails:
- Admit to C&W for 24 hrs
- Q4 hr neuro checks

CT Head not indicated

Based on PECARN validated prediction rules - Lancet 2009; 374: 1160-70
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