

# Pediatric Head Trauma CT Decision Guide

Revised 9/10/20

Age < 2 yrs

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

Yes to any

CT  
Head

NO

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

Yes to any

\*\* 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

NO

CT Head not  
indicated

- \* 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

\*\* Observation entails:

- Admit to C&W for 24 hrs
- Q4 hr neuro checks

# Pediatric Head Trauma CT Decision Guide

Age 2 yrs or older

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

Yes to any

CT  
Head

NO

- Vomiting
- LOC
- Severe headache
- \* Severe mechanism of injury

Yes to any

\*\* 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

NO

CT Head not  
indicated

\* Severe Mechanism of Injury

- **Fall > 5 ft**
- MVA w/ ejection, rollover, or fatality
- Bike/ped vs. Vehicle w/o helmet
- Struck by high-impact object

\*\* Observation entails:

- Admit to C&W for 24 hrs
- Q4 hr neuro checks