

Title: Minor Head Trauma - what should I look for?

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Abstract: If a patient has a minor head injury and a Glasgow Coma Scale of 15, then there are certain identifiable risk factors that need to be evaluated for to determine the need for further imaging. These risk factors include: Loss of Consciousness, Post-Traumatic Amnesia, Seizure, Confusion, Focal Neurological Deficit, Vomiting, Headache, Skull Fracture, age over 60, or patient with a coagulopathy. If two or more of these risk factors are present, then patient will need neuroimaging. If only one risk factor is present, then it is up to the physician to determine if patient needs neuroimaging.

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## What if I don't need imaging?

- If you don't need imaging you may be sent home and told to watch for certain signs.
  - These signs include: Vomiting, Confusion, Seizure, Loss of Consciousness
- You may experience post-traumatic amnesia and possible headache.
  - These may be normal occurrences, if they appear to be getting worse or other signs listed above develop seek medical help.

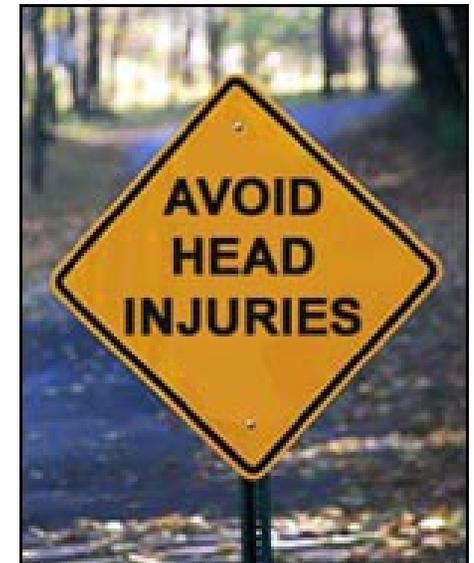
## How do I prevent this from occurring?



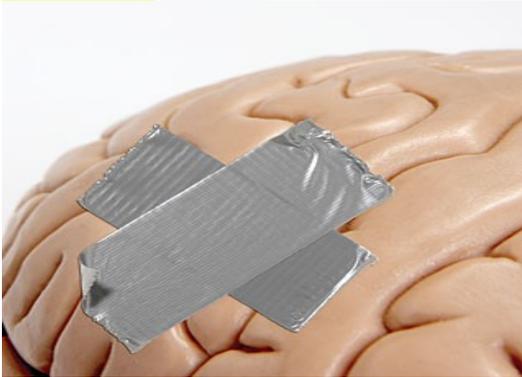
- There is no possible way to prevent all minor head trauma
- You should always protect yourself when you can
- Most importantly - wear seat belts in car and helmets when doing any possible contact activity

## MINOR HEAD TRAUMA

- What to do
- When is it urgent?
- Signs to look for



## After the injury occurs



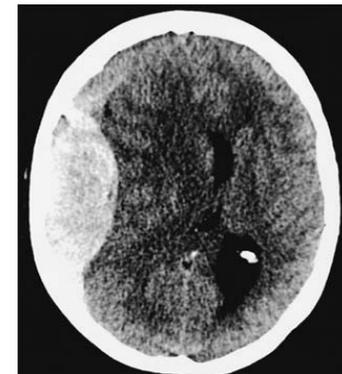
- Assess the person
- If person is able to communicate talk with them
- Ask who they are, where they are, what the date is, what season are they in
- Do NOT move the head if there is a suspected neck injury

## Warning Signs

- Call 911 immediately if patient experiences loss of consciousness, has an open skull fracture, is vomiting, or is experiencing a seizure
- Call 911 or get patient to a medical provider especially if they are over the age of 60, or if they are on any blood thinners. Ex: Aspirin, Coumadin/Warfarin, Heparin, Lovenox, Plavix

## What will happen in the Emergency Department?

- Depending on the severity of the injury the physician will assess the need for imaging.
- It is possible they may need to look for bleeding inside the brain called an Epidural Hematoma or Subdural Hematoma



EPIDURAL HEMATOMA

