

Title: Canadian CT Head Rule is an Effective Clinical Screening Tool in Minor Head Trauma Cases.

Author: Bryan Donald

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Abstract:

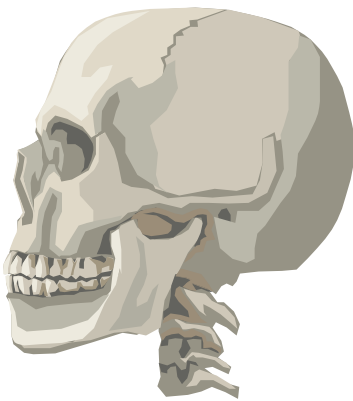
The Canadian CT Head Rule is a simple screening tool used in cases of adults with minor head trauma. It can identify patients needing surgery 100% of the time while limiting the number of patients needing head CT to only 32% of those with minor head trauma and a loss of consciousness.

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I hit my head; do I need a Head CT?

First off, what is a Head CT?

- CT, or Computed Tomography, is a way to use X-rays to make a picture of the inside of someone's body.
- CT is very useful at finding many problems inside the body, including head injuries.
- CT uses radiation (x-rays) to make the images.
 - This does not cause problems in low doses, but is not good if it is not needed to find a problem.



How badly did I hit my head?

- Did you lose consciousness?
 - If so, you might have had a minor head injury.
 - If you had a head injury, there is a system that doctors can use to tell if you need a CT.
 - This system looks for several symptoms that patients can have after head injuries.
 - The system is called the Canadian Head CT Rule.

Don't I need a CT...what if something is missed?

- The Canadian Head CT Rule is very good at finding patients that might have brain injuries.
- If you don't have any of the symptoms fitting the rule, it is VERY unlikely that you have a brain injury.
- As always, if you feel that your symptoms are changing, come back to see the doctor, or go to the Emergency Room!

