

Canadian CT Head Rule

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

High Risk (for Neurological Intervention)

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

Medium Risk (for Brain Injury on CT)

6. Amnesia before impact ≥ 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 ≥ 3 feet or 5 stairs

Rule Not Applicable If:

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