

Risk Factors for Advanced Imaging

Adapted from Stiell et al. The Canadian CT Head Rule for Patients with Minor Head Injury. Lancet 2001;357:1391-96

Red Flags

- GCS score < 15 at 2 hours after injury
- Suspected open or depressed skull fracture
 - Any sign of basal skull fracture
 - Vomiting > 2 episodes
 - Age > 65 years
- Amnesia before impact > 30 minutes
 - Dangerous mechanism

Risk Factors for Prolonged Concussion Recovery

Synthesized from the Concussion Recovery Pattern and Pathway – concussionsontario.org and Table 1.1 Risk Factors Influencing Recovery Post mTBI – braininjuryguidelines.org

Medical Factors

- History of traumatic brain injury, neurological, sleep or psychiatric problems
- Signs/symptoms of vestibulo-ocular abnormalities or cognitive difficulties
 - Increased symptoms with return to school, work or exercise
 - Reduced balance or dizziness
 - Memory problems after injury
 - Nausea after injury

Contextual Factors

- Being a student, female gender or of older age
- Injury sustained in an motor vehicle collision
 - Low educational/social economic status
 - Higher levels of symptom reporting
 - Secondary gain issues i.e. litigation

If one or more risk factors are identified:

Encourage immediate follow-up with the patient's primary care provider

Provider further education and re-assurance

The primary care provider should request additional examinations and consultations as needed and refer for active treatment for symptom management. Interdisciplinary care may be required.