

# 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  $\geq$  2 episodes
5. Age  $\geq$  65 years

## Medium Risk (for Brain Injury on CT)

6. Amnesia before impact  $\geq$  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  $\geq$  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

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

Adapted from the VA/DoD Management of Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Clinical Practice Guideline (VA/DoD, 2009)