



The Michigan Emergency
Department Improvement
Collaborative (MEDIC)
endorses use of the
Canadian CT Head Rule
to assess whether a head
CT is indicated in **adult**
(age ≥ 18) patients with
minor head injury.

Stiell, IG et al. The Canadian CT Head Rule for patients with minor head injury. *The Lancet*. 2001;357(9266), pp.1391-1396.

Canadian CT Head Rule

Head CT is ONLY INDICATED for adult minor head injury¹ patients WITH ANY ONE of the below²:

High Risk (for neurological intervention)

- GCS score <15 @ 2 hours after injury
- Suspected open or depressed skull fracture
- Any sign of basal skull fracture (hemotympanum, 'raccoon' eyes, cerebrospinal fluid otorrhea/rhinorrhea, Battle's sign)
- Vomiting ≥2 episodes
- Age ≥65 years

Medium Risk (for brain injury on CT)

- Amnesia before impact ≥30min
- Dangerous mechanism (pedestrian struck by motor vehicle, occupant ejected from motor vehicle, fall from height >3ft or 5 stairs)

¹ **minor head injury**: loss of consciousness, definite amnesia, or disorientation in patients with a GCS score of 13-15

² **exclusions**: use of antiplatelets or anticoagulants, pre-existing bleeding disorders, penetrating skull injury, acute focal neurological deficits, unstable vital signs associated with major trauma

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