HEAD INJURY

The CT scan WITHOUT contrast is your test of choice.

### Canadian Head CT Rule

- GCS <15 (measured 2 hours post injury)
- Suspected open or depressed skull fracture
- Evidence of basilar skull fracture
- >2 episodes of vomiting
- Age >65
- >30 minutes of retrograde amnesia prior to event
- “Dangerous” mechanism
  - Ejected from car
  - Pedestrian hit by car
  - Fall from >3 feet

### Approach to Head Injury

1) Write Out Differential (The Big 5)
   - Skull Fracture (External and Basilar)
   - Epidural Hematomas
   - Subdural Hematomas
   - Traumatic Subarachnoid Hemorrhage
   - Parenchymal Injury (especially concussion)

2) Important Parts of History
   - Specific Mechanism
   - Loss of Consciousness
   - Blood Thinners/Anti-platelet Medicines

3) Important Parts of Exam
   - GCS
   - Pupils
   - Basilar Skull

4) Calculate Canadian Head CT Rule
   (See Sidebar)

### References