

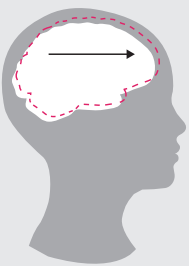


For questions and concerns, please contact:

Let's talk about concussion and your child's risk for more serious injury such as bleeding in or around the brain.

Concussion

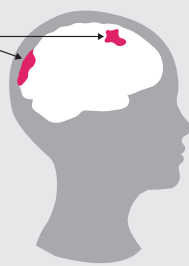
Brain movement within the skull



- Symptoms* may include headache, nausea, dizziness, or difficulty concentrating
- Symptoms should resolve in several days to a few months
- Recovery is almost always complete
- Cannot be seen on a CT scan

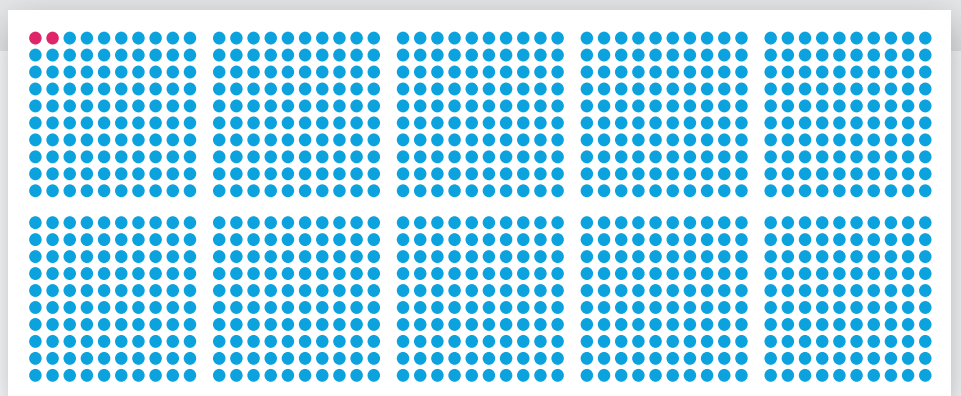
Brain Injury

Blood



In 1,000 children with minor head injury similar to your child:

2 will have brain injury and **998 will not**



- Occurs when the head injury is severe enough to cause bleeding in or around the brain
- May require medical intervention such as a stay in the hospital or surgical procedure

Kuppermann et al., Lancet, 2009

*This information may not apply to young children who are not yet able to walk or talk.

After monitoring your child in the emergency department for a period of time, we will find out if there is any serious bleeding in or around the brain with:



HEAD CT SCAN

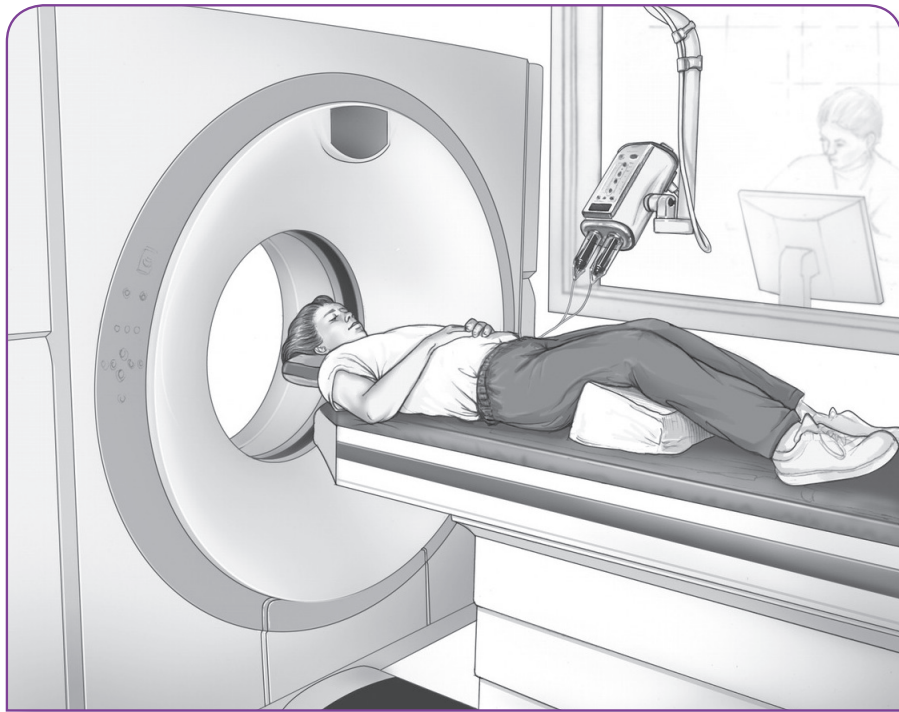
or








OBSERVATION AT HOME

You can have a head CT scan test done to determine if your child has had a brain injury.

If your child's symptoms are the same or better in the next 1-2 days, then there was no serious bleeding in or around the brain.





It is very unlikely, but if your child develops new or worsening symptoms* such as these, bring him/her back to the Emergency Department as soon as possible.

- 
 Lack of alertness
 (if they are becoming less and less alert within the next day)
- 
 Severely worsening headache
 (despite resting)
- 
 Vomiting
 (enough episodes to interfere with eating)
- 
 Unsteady or cannot walk
- 
 Difficulty talking or recognizing people

Your child can maintain regular activities such as sleep.

* Some symptoms may not apply to young children who are not yet able to walk or talk.

Please circle the issues that are most important to you and your child.

| | SPEED OF DIAGNOSIS | RADIATION | SEDATION | COST | POTENTIAL DOWNSIDES | WAIT IN ED |
|---|--------------------|-----------|----------|--|--|-------------------|
| HEAD CT SCAN  | Now | Yes | Possible | May increase cost depending on your coverage | May find irrelevant things that lead to more tests | Typically longer |
| OBSERVATION AT HOME  | Delayed | No | No | No added cost | Potential return to ED if symptoms worsen | Typically shorter |

After discussing this together, we want to do:

- HEAD CT SCAN
- OBSERVATION AT HOME
- Let the Emergency Department doctor decide what to do next

You will have the opportunity to revisit this decision with your doctor while you are in the Emergency Department.