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CT Negative SDH

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Description

CT scan is the gold standard diagnostic investigation for head injuries as it is a rapid investigation, easily available and cost effective even though MRI is a more sensitive and accurate tool [1]. However, small hematomas, parenchymal injuries or vault fractures near the bone may be missed on CT. Thin SDH being close to the bone might be missed on CT scan and similarly, SAH can also go undetected on CT scan **(Figures 1 and 2)**. The same reason explains the drawbacks of CT in detecting small traumatic lesions of the brain stem or posterior fossa structures [2,3].

Although being a sensitive tool, a negative CT scan does not always rule out acute SDH and emphasis should be to find out the hemorrhage either by thinner cuts of CT or by doing MRI in all such suspected cases wherever possible.

Figure 1 CT scan done immediately after the fall showing no abnormality.

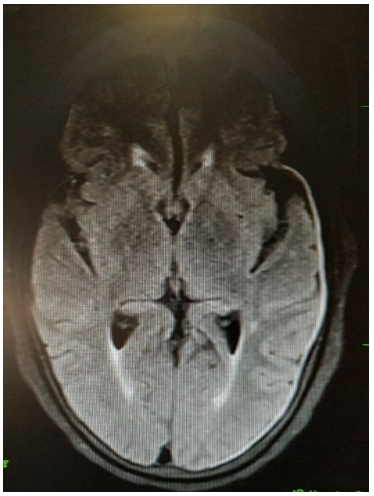

Figure 2 MRI showing thin SDH on left side.

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