

Adult Blunt Trauma Imaging Guidelines

Trauma Head CT
w/o contrast



Trauma Head CT – Suspicion of head injury AND any one of the following are present:

- Taking Plavix oral anticoagulant or bleeding co-morbidity
- GCS < 15 on arrival
- Suspected open or depressed skull fracture
- Any sign of basilar skull fx (hemotympanum, raccoon eyes, Battle’s sign, oto- or rhinorrhea)
- > 2 episodes of vomiting
- Age \geq 65
- Retrograde amnesia > 30 mins preceding incident
- Dangerous mechanism (ped struck, ejection, fall > 3 ft or 5 stairs, etc.,)

Trauma Face CT
w/o contrast



Trauma Face CT

- Physical exam is suggestive of midface or mandibular fracture

CT Angio-Neck
with contrast



CT Angio of Neck

- Neurologic abnormality not explained by diagnosed injury
- Arterial epistaxis
- Seat belt sign on neck
- GCS <8
- Petrous bone fracture
- C-spine fracture (C1-C3) or subluxation at any level
- Fracture through foramen transversum
- Lefort II or III fractures

Trauma Chest CT
with contrast



Trauma Chest CT – order only for evaluation of thoracic aorta. Not for primary evaluation of the thoracic spine. Suspect aortic injury if sufficient mechanism and:

- Wide mediastinum
- Sternal fracture
- First rib fracture
- High velocity crash
- Age > 50
- Hypotension episode
- Known abdominal injury
- Torso crush injury

Trauma
Abd/Pelvis CT
with contrast (IV
Only)



Trauma Abdomen/Pelvis CT – Not for primary imaging of the lumbar spine. Image if any of the following are present:

- Abnormal abdominal, pelvic or lumbar spine exam
- Positive FAST
- Intubated patient
- GCS \leq 12
- Intoxicated patient
- Lumbar fracture on plain films
- Controlled hemodynamic instability
- Hematuria

Adult Blunt Trauma Imaging Guidelines

 C-Spine CT


C-Spine CT – Image if any of the following are present, or unable to clinically clear:

- Age \geq 65
- Paresthesias in extremities
- Fall > 3 feet or 5 stairs
- Axial load to head (e.g. diving)
- High speed MVC (> 60 mph)
- Rollover
- Ejection
- ATV, motorized bike, motorcycle
- Known thoracic or lumbar fracture

 T-Spine CT


T-Spine CT – Image if any of the following are present:

- Spinal or paraspinous pain or tenderness
- Spinal deformity
- Known cervical or lumbar fracture
- High risk mechanism (see C-spine criteria)
- Unconscious or intoxicated
- Distracting injury

If Chest CT ordered

 Thoracic reconstruction of Chest CT

 AP/Lateral T-Spine X-Ray


- If CT not indicated with trauma mechanism

If too obese for x-ray

 Dedicated T-spine CT

 L-Spine CT


L-Spine CT – Image if any of the following are present:

- Spinal or paraspinous pain or tenderness
- Spinal deformity
- Known cervical or lumbar fracture
- High risk mechanism (see C-spine criteria)
- Unconscious or intoxicated
- Distracting injury

If Abd/Pelvic CT ordered

 Lumbar reconstruction of Abd/Pelvic CT

 AP/Lateral L-Spine X-Ray


- If CT not indicated with trauma mechanism

If too obese for x-ray

 Dedicated L-spine CT