

Case Report

Volume 8 Issue 5 - September 2018
DOI: 10.19080/OAJNN.2018.08.555750

Open Access J Neurol Neurosurg

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Roqia Al-Azzani (TBI) Serial CT Control Analysis of Necessity and Outcome



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Submission: January 19,2018; **Published:** September 04, 2018

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Abstract

Background: TBI is a leading cause of death and disability around the globe. The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) and the Glasgow Outcome Scale (GOS) are the most widely used methods of describing TBI and measure of outcome following head injury. Computed tomography (CT) has become the current standard for diagnosing intracranial pathology following head trauma. The aims of this study were to identify radiological features of patients in who repeated CT imaging would be useful and to identify the outcome of head trauma, according to Glasgow Outcome Scale. In addition to make a development of a stratification protocol of patients into appropriate risk groups avoiding over or under investigation in such patients.

Method: A retrospective case series study analysis of head trauma patients presenting to the 48 Medical Model Compound Hospital between January and March 2017. All patients requiring a CT head on admission and then a repeat (control) CT at 6 hours or more were included. Their GCS was assessed twice before undergoing the control brain CT scans; once they arrived at the hospital, then followed by another assessment after 3 hours and assessed GOS on discharge.

Results: Of the total 27-control brain CTs, it was seen there were no different in 23 (85.2 %). In CTs of another 1 (3.7%) there was increasing in the pathology present. And in the another 3 (11.11%) there were a decrease in the pathology. Over all, all patients had clinical improvement and good outcome depending on of GCS and Glasgow Outcome Scale respectively.

Conclusion: To conclude, control brain CT scans after 6 hours or more from the event are not necessary in case the initial CT was normal or when there is no clinical deterioration. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is defined as damage to the brain resulting from external mechanical force, such as rapid acceleration or deceleration, impact, blast waves, or penetration by a projectile and presents a major worldwide social, economic, and health problem [1]. TBI is a leading cause of death and disability around the globe [2]. In developing countries, the incidence of traumatic brain injury is increasing as traffic increases, besides Other confounding factors such as industrialization, falls and ballistic trauma [3]. The most widely used methods of describing TBI are the Glasgow Coma Scale (Figure 1). It is predictive of mortality in a general TBI population. The Glasgow Outcome Scale (Figure 2) is the most widely used and accepted measure of outcome following head injury [4-6].

Computed Tomography (CT) is the preferred radiologic test in TBI it is quick, accurate, and widely available, it has become the current standard for diagnosing intracranial pathology following head trauma. And the role of the initial brain CT scan and of unscheduled repeat brain CTs when a neurological deterioration occurs is well established. But using of routine serial head CT in patients without neurological deterioration is not supported by the findings of Brown et al [7-10].

The aims of this study are to identify radiological features of patients in who repeated CT imaging would be useful and to Identify the outcome of head trauma, according to Glasgow Outcome Scale [11]. In addition to make a development of a stratification protocol of patients into appropriate risk groups avoiding over or under investigation in such patients.

Keywords: Roqia al-azzani; Traumatic Brain Injury; Roqia al-azzani; Traumatic brain injury; control analysis; Necessity; Outcome; Management; Patients; Anticoagulant; Telephone; Glasgow coma scale; Computed tomography; Globe; Neurosurgery; Hospital; Radiation

Abbreviations: TBI: Traumatic brain injury; GCS: Glasgow Coma Scale; GOS: Glasgow Coma Scale; CT: Computed tomography;

Introduction

A retrospective case series study analysis of head trauma patients presenting to the 48 Medical Model Compound Hospital between January and March 2017 were done. All patients requiring a CT head on admission and then a repeat (control) CT at 6 hours or more were included. The decision to perform

CT head was, according to admitting neurosurgical doctors' discretion. Also, their GCS was assessed twice before undergoing the control brain CT scans; once they arrived at the hospital, and then followed by another assessment after 3 hours. All patients with head trauma above 18 years of age who were admitted to the neurosurgery department and subjected to two or more CT

scans of the brain were enrolled in this study. The decision to repeat a CT scan was taken by the neurosurgeon (Figures 1&2).

GLASGOW COMA SCALE*	
Eye opening	{ spontaneous to speech to pain nil
Verbal response	{ orientated confused conversation inappropriate words incomprehensible sounds nil
Best motor response	{ obeys localises flexor response extensor response nil

*Teasdale and Jennett (1974).

Figure 1: Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS).

GLASGOW OUTCOME SCALE*	
Dead	—
Persistent vegetative state	Sleep/wake non-sentient
Severely disabled	Conscious but dependent
Moderately disabled	Independent but disabled
Good recovery	May have mild residual

*Jennett and Bond (1975).

Figure 2: Glasgow Outcome Scale. (GOS).

Exclusion Criteria. The following patients were excluded from the study:

- Patients, who were not referred to a neurosurgeon,
- Patients, who died before the CT scan,
- Patients with associated life-threatening injuries to other systems or polytrauma,
- Patients who were taken up to surgery based upon the findings of the first CT scan,
- Patients who were discharged or who expired after the first CT scans,
- Patients who had a repeat head CT due to non-trauma related incidental findings (brain tumors, cysts).
- Patients who are under anticoagulation or antiplatelet medication Patients who are under 18yrs of age. Patients who have chronic medical illnesses.

- Patients who admitted to neurointensive care unit.

Results

The total number of head trauma patients presenting to our Centre was 63. A control brain CT scans (six hours or more from the time of presentation/injury) was available for 27 patients (24 had blunt and 3 had penetrating head trauma). These were analyzed. In patients with blunt trauma (n=24), the majority (n=12 (44%) had normal initial brain CT scan and normal subsequent control brain CT scans. In all patients, the initial GCS was 15/15 except in one patient it was 13/15, but it has improved to 15/15. In 4 (14%) patients had evidence of haemorrhage in initial brain CT scans; the control brain CT scans showed no changes in pathology or in the haemorrhagic size in 2 patients. However, in the other 2 patients, although it showed no new changes in pathology, there was a significant decrease in the haemorrhagic size. Nevertheless, regardless of these findings, the initial GCS (14-12 /15) in all Patients had improved to 15/15.

First CT Results	No difference in control CTs	A new lesion or increase of pathology in control CTs	Decrease of pathology in control CTs	Total	GOS
Normal	12	0	0	12	5
Hemorrhage	2	0	2	4	5
Fracture	4	0	0	4	5
Fracture + hemorrhage	3	1	0	4	5
penetrating injury	2	0	1	3	5

Figure 3: General characteristics of patients with control cranial CTs.

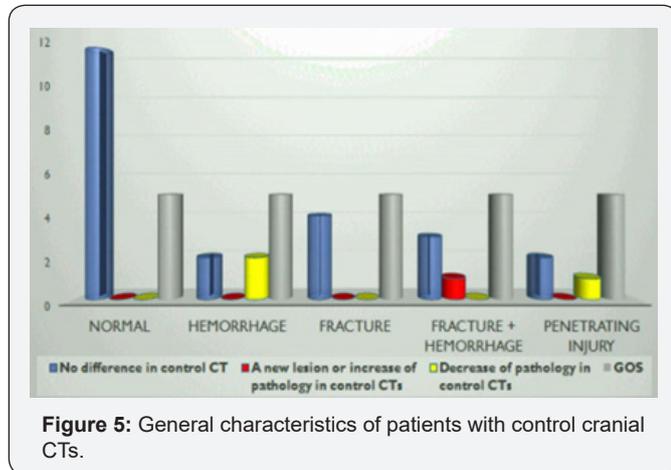
First CT Results	Initial GCS	Control CTs Finding	2 nd GCS assessment	Outcome GOS	Total of cases
Normal	13	Normal	15	5	1
	12-14	No difference in control CT to Decrease of pathology in control CTs	15	5	4
Hemorrhage					
	13	Decrease of pathology in control CTs	15	5	1
penetrating injury					

Figure 4: General characteristics of patients with GCS change.

In another 4 (14 %) patients of skull fracture with haemorrhage, the control brain CT scans showed increased haemorrhagic size in 1 patient (25 %) but showed no new changes in either pathology or haemorrhagic size in the 3 patients (75 %). Their GCS, interestingly, remained at 15 /15. Whereas, in 4 (14%) patients with skull fracture, but with no Haemorrhage, no new changes in pathology were noticed in their control brain CT scans as well as their GCS remained at 15 /15. In patients with penetrating head trauma (3 patients), 2 (66%) patients analyzed to have the same pathology in both initial and control CT Scans. Also, their GCS remained at 15/15.

However, a significant decrease in pathology was observed in the control CT scans of the other patient (33%) as well as showed GCS improvement from 13/15 to 15/15.

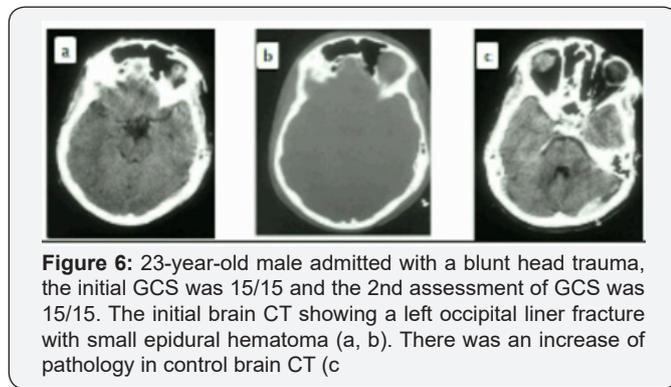
Over all, all patients had clinical improvement and good outcome depending on of GCS and Glasgow Outcome Scale respectively (Figures 3-5).



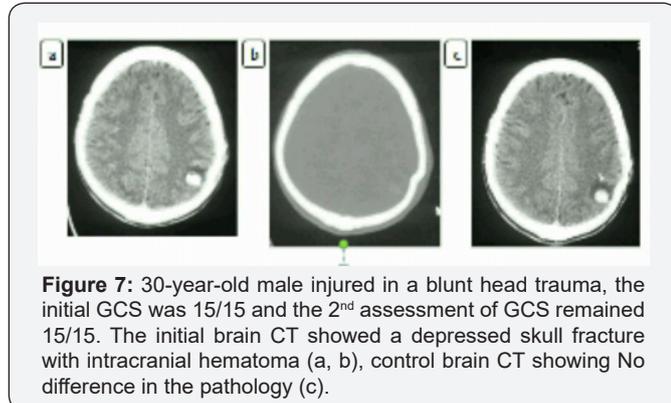
Case Presentation

Presentation 1: -

23-year-old male admitted with a blunt head trauma, the initial GCS was 15/15 and the 2nd assessment of GCS was 15/15. The initial brain CT showing a left occipital liner fracture with small epidural hematoma (a, b). There was an increase of pathology in control brain CT © (Figure 6).

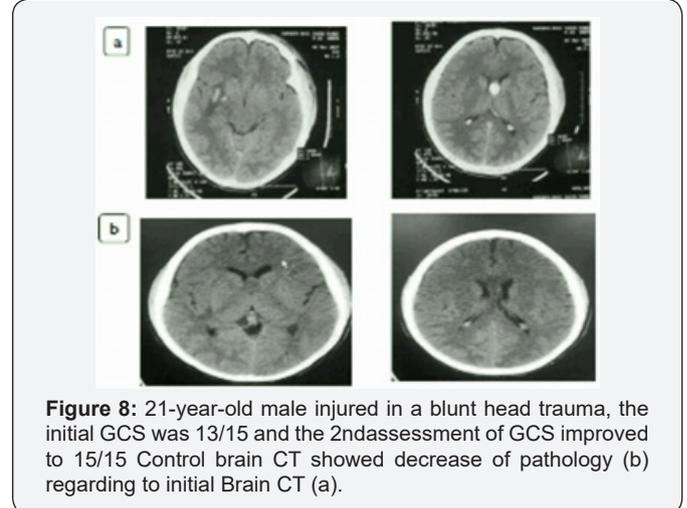


Case presentation 2: -



30-year-old male injured in a blunt head trauma, the initial GCS was 15/15 and the 2nd assessment of GCS remained 15/15. The initial brain CT showed a depressed skull fracture with intracranial hematoma (a, b), control brain CT showing No difference in the pathology (c) (Figure 7).

Case presentation 3: -



Discussion

Head Trauma is a common pathology seen in the Emergency Departments. And it is one of the most frequent and grave forms of neurologic disease. CT has been widely used for neuromonitoring of head trauma. CT is the gold standard for the detection of intracranial abnormalities and is a safe method for survey [12-14].

Guidelines of the immediate head CT scan and when a neurological deterioration occurs is Well-established [9]. However, there are no guidelines for the value of repeat CT scanning. Patients who present with head trauma often receives repeat CT scans to rule out the progression of their head injury. Controversy exists as to the role of a routine repeat head Computed Tomography (CT) for patients with traumatic brain injury and an initially abnormal head CT. Brown CV et al. reported that Patients with any head injury (mild, moderate, or severe) should undergo a repeat head CT after neurological deterioration, because it leads to intervention in over one-third of patients. Routine repeat head CT is indicated for patients with a GCS score ≤8, as results might lead to intervention without neurological change [15-17].

Serkan Emre et al. study showed that the first CT scan of head trauma patients in EDs are good guides for the status of patients with mild head trauma patients. Repeated CT scans after 6 hours of observation in ED room were not necessary if first CT was normal in most situations [16]. Whereas, this result was consistent with results of this study.

Ramesh S Doddamani et al. [15] study showed that Repeat CT scans resulted in management changes even in patients with no clinical deterioration and thus may be of value in detecting

changes at an early stage. Interventions based on the repeat CT are an important issue, because it may justify the cost of the study if that would improve the outcome for the patient [16]. But this study didn't show significance in the need for intervention in head trauma patients based on repeated CT if there were clinical deterioration.

concluded that Patients with a high Injury Severity Score (ISS) and/or those who are intubated have significantly higher odds of having a positive repeat head CT when repeated for follow-up or when clinically warranted [8]. This study has excluded critical head trauma patients and patients who admitted to neurointensive care unit and we will include them in further study. Similar study by Brown CV et al. reported that few patients with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) have their management altered after repeat head CT, and these patients had neurological deterioration before the repeat head CT [10]. Other study such as Chao A. study illustrated that patients with an unchanged or normal neurological exam, a routine serial H-CT did not influence subsequent invasive neurosurgical intervention. Also, Dharap SB et al. study showed similar results. In this study we found no change in management in patients who not met the criteria of neurological intervention regarding of initial GCS and initial brain, if there is no clinical deterioration, the repeat CT scan is unlikely to reveal a lesion needing surgical intervention [16,18,19].

Kessel Boris et al. is interesting study showed that Repeat CT of most head injured patients with GCS of 14-15, suffering from intracranial traumatic lesion, will not demonstrate significant changes in the size of intracranial hematoma. Increase in hematoma size is not prognostic factor of neurological deterioration. Routine repeat CT scan may not be justified in head trauma patients with GCS 14-15 on admission [20]. This study showed similar results but just one case presented with increased hematoma and no clinical deterioration or needed for neurosurgical intervention and it was not statistically significant. Ananda war SP et al. [13]. reported that a new "Neurologic Observation without Repeat HCT" (NORH) protocol with no repeat HCT scanning for patients admitted for MHI and ICH whose neurological status was maintained or improved to a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 15 at 24 hours after admission. The NORH protocol is safe and effective and can reduce radiation exposure and costs [13].

Serial brain CTs is a common practice to evaluate the progression of any pathological signs regardless of the clinical assessment in our country hospital. It increases the costs of hospitalization and crowding in EDs, increases resource use, exposes patients to unnecessary radiation. Some studies have demonstrated that no interventions were based on repeat CTs unless the patient had coagulopathy, hypotension, intracranial pressure elevation, or a marked neurologic deterioration and concluded that routine scheduled brain cranial CTs are unnecessary [16]. McCammaack Ck study repeated that head

CT in patients on anticoagulant and antiplatelet (ACAP) therapy that present after mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is not likely indicated in the absence of GCS deviation, Loc, neurosurgical deficit, clopidogrel, aspirin or compensation regimen use [21]. Serkan Emre Eroglu study demonstrated that patients with underlying chronic disease, patients who had fracture in first CTs, and patients who are taking antiplatelet agents. Need a special attention [16].

Conclusion

We concluded that the control brain CT scans after 6 hours or more from the event are not necessary in case the initial CT was normal or when there is no clinical deterioration regarding of GCS.

Future work or limitation of this study

- Include all patients who admitted and all ages that well increase the sample size.
- Include patients who admitted to neurointensive care unit.
- Include all risky patient's groups (anticoagulation, antiplatelet or chronic medical illnesses)
- Information and advice for patients who discharged
- Follow up, for example, telephone review and monitoring to indicate which patients require inpatient rehabilitation.
- Comparison of reporting accuracy of head CT scans by consultants (neuroradiologists, neurologists and emergency medicine).

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DOI: [10.19080/OAJNN.2018.08.555750](https://doi.org/10.19080/OAJNN.2018.08.555750)

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