



The Royal Australian and New Zealand
College of Radiologists®

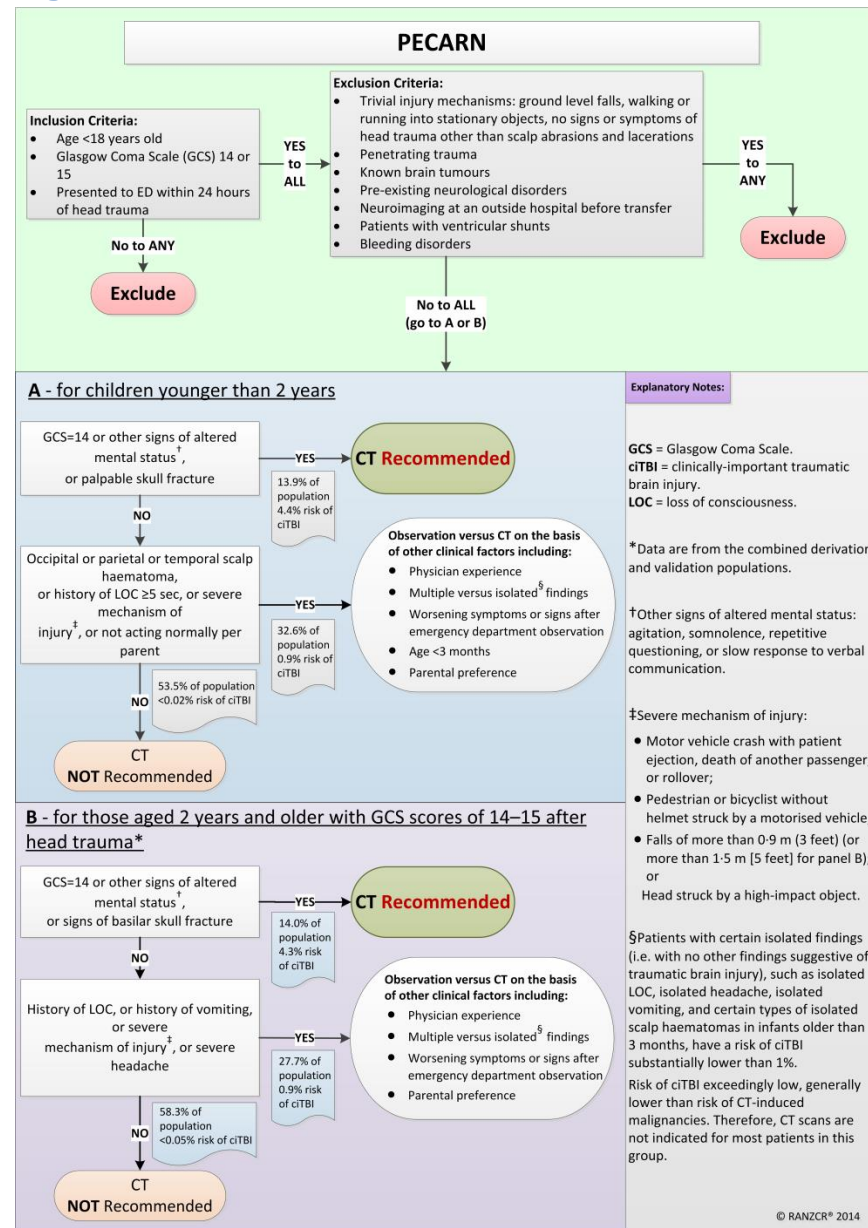
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PECARN

Algorithm:



Summary Statement:

The PECARN clinical decision rule aims to determine which children are at very low risk of important brain injury and who therefore do not require a CT scan of the head. It has been developed from the largest paediatric data set of the three CDRs featured in this module. The PECARN clinical decision rule has been shown in a single, multicentre validation study to be high performing in identifying children who present within 24 hours of blunt head trauma with GCS of 14 or 15 who are at very low risk of a clinically important traumatic brain injury (defined as death, neurosurgical intervention, intubation more than 24 hours or admission of 2 nights or more due to traumatic brain injury). The PECARN clinical decision rule consists of 2 age specific rules: one for children less than 2 years of age, one for children 2 years and older. The elements for both age groups overlap but are not identical.

Reference:

Kuppermann N, Holmes JF, Dayan PS, Hoyle JD, Jr., Atabaki SM, Holubkov R, et al. Identification of children at very low risk of clinically-important brain injuries after head trauma: a prospective cohort study. *Lancet*. 2009; 374(9696): 1160-70