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Correlation between neurologic examination using Glasgow coma scale score as sole variable with plain cranial CT findings in patients with minor head injury from January to October 2017

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Head injury is physical injury to the brain and has many causes. The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score is part of the neurologic examination for all patients with head injury which is a quantifiable determination of neurologic function. Scores of 13 to 15 indicate Mild Head Injury (MHI). Computed Tomography (CT) scan may highly detect life threatening injuries and may be used to diagnose severity, however indications varies from one institution to another and has been controversial. 100 patients who sought consult in Quezon City General Hospital from January to October 2017 due to mild head injury and subjected immediately to plain CT of the head and neurocranium. GCS scores and physical examination at the emergency room were collected and correlated with the plain cranial CT scan findings. The general objective is to identify the relationship of neurologic examination namely GCS score with the plain CT findings in patients with MHI. Pearson product correlation coefficient at 5% significance level was used to determine the relationship between neurologic examination GCS and patients who underwent Plain CT scan of the head with findings of hemorrhage or bleeding, soft tissue swelling, edema, fracture and normal findings. The results prove to have a strong relationship between CT scan findings and GCS with patients with MHI. Loss of consciousness, soft tissue swelling and vomiting were identified as the common indications for CT scan with MHI. Vehicular accident and mauling/assault were the major causes resulting to MHI. Few studies have been documented in our country and this study aims to raise awareness of proper use of the CT scan and minimize unnecessary radiation exposure in patients having such condition.

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