

Trauma Module – T4: Decision Making in Trauma [Last updated 24/9/12

| Scenario: T4 – 3 | Patient: | Simulator |
|---|-------------------|---|
| T4 – Minor head injury | George Calombaris | All of T4 scenarios can be accomplished with an actor |
| | | SIMMAN Essential or above |
| Case Summary: George is an 18-year-old man who has fallen off his | | Participant Briefing: |
| skateboard whilst travelling down hill. He hit his head in the fall. He did not | | George Calombaris, 18 year old boy |
| lose consciousness but does not remember the incident or getting to hospital | | |
| (15 minute trip). He has moderate concussion. He does not fit the Canadian CT | | Brought in by parents, after fall from skateboard with loss of consciousness. |
| head rules criteria to CT his head. Borderline for CT head/short stay/home | | |
| with advice. May depend upon location of patient's home and ED and local | | |
| protocols! | | |
| Clinical Issues | | Human factors / Non technical issues |
| | | |
| Mild head injury with complicating amnesia. | | Communication surrounding decision-making in head injury |
| Borderline for CT head scan or admission to short stay. | | Decision making on patient disposition |
| Risk stratification – involvement of senior clinician! | | Communication with senior |
| | | |

Learning Objectives:

Apply Risk stratification of mild/moderate head injury.

Communicate: With team, patient, George's parent (as patient can't remember), senior. **Conduct:** Systematic approach to the trauma patient. Thorough assessment and history

Demonstrate: A team approach to assessment and decision-making. Knowledge of indications for CT head scans in their ED

Interpret: History and examination findings

Faculty Actors:

George Calombaris – fit and well 18 year old. Does not remember from 5 min before the fall to about 15 min after the fall. George has not vomited and feels fine other than a sore part of his head – left parietal/occipital area – where he hit his head.

Nurse Faculty – Helpful and proactive. Guide/prompt the team through the assessment of George. You are a little worried about George due to the loss of memory.

Parent of George – Saw George start from the top of the hill and fall about half way down. She/he thinks that he rolled about 3 times and then stopped. George seemed to get up straight away and he had a very brief loss of consciousness (less than 30 seconds). George felt a little sick at the time but did not vomit. He did not complain of any other pain other than a tender head where he hit it. George is fit and well with no allergies





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Senior ED clinician – They should receive a handover from the team leader when they ask for help, towards the end of the scenario.

Patient Moulage:

No real moulage needed. A "cool" cap might be good to have on George for that "skater" look!

Equipment & Props:

EdWISE Trauma box and extras

Local Head injury guidelines and discharge handouts

| Monitor: | Investigations: | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| ED setting – 3 Waveform screen | Nil | |
| Sats | | |
| NIBP | | |
| 3-lead ECG | | |
| Patient presentation | Expected response by participants | Faculty /Actors Notes |
| Initial Presentation | AMPLE history from George and mother/father | George – Nice guy. Compliant with questions but can't |
| Sats – 99% on air | Structured approach to the trauma patient Allocate roles | remember incident or 15 min either side of the fall. No previous |
| RR – 15/min | Attach monitoring | illness, NKDA, fit and well. Pain from where he hit his head and |
| HR – 78/min reg | Identify amnesia as a risk factor | tender over that area – left parieto-occipital area. Nil C-spine |
| BP - 130/65 | | tenderness and has been moving his neck. |
| Chest clear | | Faculty Nurse – Proactive and helpful. Helps to guide the team |
| PEARL | | through the assessment of the patient. Will apply monitoring |
| GCS 15 | | without asking, etc. |
| Neurologically intact! | | George's Parent – Saw the fall "looked terrible". Thinks that is |
| Neurologically intact! | | was a miracle that George managed to stand afterwards. |





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| Patient presentation | Expected response by participants | Faculty /Actors Notes |
|--|--|--|
| Initial Presentation Sats – 99% on air RR – 15/min HR – 78/min reg BP – 130/65 Chest clear PEARL GCS 15 Neurologically intact! | AMPLE history from George and mother/father Structured approach to the trauma patient Allocate roles Attach monitoring Identify amnesia as a risk factor . | George – Nice guy. Compliant with questions but can't remember incident or 15 min either side of the fall. No previous illness, NKDA, fit and well. Pain from where he hit his head and tender over that area – left parieto-occipital area. Nil C-spine tenderness and has been moving his neck. Faculty Nurse – Proactive and helpful. Helps to guide the team through the assessment of the patient. Will apply monitoring without asking, etc. George's Parent – Saw the fall "looked terrible". Thinks that is was a miracle that George managed to stand afterwards. |
| Progression There is no change in observations | Team should have identified that George is suffering from retro and anterograde amnesia. They should be communicating with George's parent and George about the head injury – mild to moderate, what the concerning and reassuring signs are. The team should be coming to a decision as to how to proceed and George's admission/discharge/senior help | George – Same as above. Keen to go home and watch the footie Faculty nurse – Same as above. If the Skull x-ray was asked for the hand the team the laminated copy of the x-ray George's Parent – Is worried about taking George home. They do not know what to look for and have heard in the news about kids dying from seemingly mild head injuries. Senior ED clinician – If the team ask for input then you can arrive and receive and handover. Ask any quick questions you feel are appropriate (to the team) and supply an answer to their questions according to your ED's protocols. |





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Debrief Guide

Key clinical issues

Structured approach to the trauma patient

Assessment of the head injured patient (mild-moderate)

AVPU/GCS/power/tone/sensation

Pupil assessment

Clinical decision rules in head injury

Discharging the head injured patient

Key non technical issues

Communication with patient – history from a patient who can't remember.

Communication with family – tips and pitfalls

Role allocation

When to ask for help

Hand over of patients – ISBAR?









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Initial State

Pain where he hit his head – **A**VPU and GCS 15 Obs stable

Progress

George stays the same Keen to go home

Deterioration

Handover to senior

Recovery

Decision on management/investigation.







