Blunt Head Injury plus Loss of Consciousness

Select either New Orleans Criteria
Or
Canadian CT Head Rule

New Orleans Criteria¹
Detect all injuries

GCS = 15?
No

Criteria does not apply

Yes

Patient older than 16 years and determined to have minor head injury²?
No

Canadian CT Head Rule²
(Not applicable if patient taking warfarin or has a bleeding disorder or has an obvious open skull fracture)
Detect all clinically important injuries

Yes

CT is required for patients with any 1 of the following

1. Headache
2. Vomiting
3. Age older than 60 years
4. Drug or alcohol intoxication
5. Persistent anterograde amnesia (deficits in short-term memory)
6. Evidence of head trauma
7. Seizure

Patient older than 16 years and determined to have minor head injury²?

Yes

CT is required for patients with any 1 of the following

1. GCS lower than 15 at 2 hours after injury
2. Suspected skull fracture
3. Any sign of basal skull fracture²
4. Two or more episodes of vomiting
5. Age 65 years or older
6. Amnesia before impact of 30 minutes or more
7. Dangerous mechanism²

¹ Minor head injury is defined as witnessed loss of consciousness, definite amnesia or witnessed disorientation in a patient with a GCS score of 13 to 15.

² Basal skull fx signs include hemotympanum, raccoon eyes, CSF, otorrhea or rhinorrhea, Battle's sign

³ Dangerous mechanism is defined as: Pedestrian struck by a motor vehicle, an occupant ejected from a motor vehicle, or a fall from an elevation of 3 or more feet or 5 stairs.