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Management of Neurosurgical Emergencies

Purpose: To provide a guideline for identifying neurosurgical emergencies

Guidelines:

- A. Neurosurgery must be available continuously for traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury patients.
- B. In the event of a neurosurgical emergency, neurosurgical evaluation by a neurosurgeon or neurosurgical mid-level provider must occur within 30 minutes of request.
 - a. If a mid-level acts as a consultant, there must be documented communication with the neurosurgeon
- C. After business hours, the trauma surgeon must call emergent consults directly to the neurosurgeon.
- D. Although other situations may warrant urgent discussion with the neurosurgery team, the following criteria require emergent evaluation as noted above.
 - a. Neurosurgical Emergency Criteria
 - i. Severe TBI (GCS < 9) with head CT evidence of intracranial trauma
 - ii. Moderate TBI (GCS 9 – 12) with head CT evidence of potential intracranial mass lesion
 - iii. Neurological deficit as a result of potential spinal cord injury
 - iv. Trauma Surgeon discretion

References:

- American College of Surgeons. (2022). *Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient*.