
Role of ct in assessment of lumbar spine trauma

Aly El said Sharaf

C.T has proved to be an extremely useful tool in evaluating a wide variety of post traumatic spinal lesions. C.T. has major advantages over plain radiography, myelography & since it is non invasive, highly sensitive, specific, capable of rapidcy of entire region of suspected lesions, easy & simple protocols as ability to perform scanning to other areas is over advantage. C.T. is ideal in diagnosis of traumatic spinal injuries as it offer clear detection of :inatomical structure of the spine and spinal canal with any injury or lesion within, assessment of spinal stability associated with desired restricted movement of the patient. C.T. help to direct clinician toward the plan of treatment either immediate surgery, selective surgery, conservative treatment or non specific management at all as negative scan may be of as valuable as positive one since it may discourage unnecessary emergency neurosurgical operation. This is particularly important in patient with multiple injuries such as abdominal injury, cranial or extremity injuries in whom the additional stress in unnecessary surgery would be undesirable. C.T. play major role in acute lumbar spinal trauma in diagnosis and help planning of treatment. This role will increase by paying attention to traumatic force, patient complaint and good observation of para spinal region. At last the fact that different imaging modalities should be complementary to each other in diagnosis of lumbar spine injuries as the selection of one modality or the other will be governed by the patients history, clinical condition as well as availability of modality of choice.