Let’s talk about concussion and your child’s risk for more serious injury such as bleeding in or around the brain.

**Concussion**

- Symptoms* may include headache, nausea, dizziness, or difficulty concentrating
- Symptoms should resolve in several days to a few months
- Recovery is almost always complete
- Cannot be seen on a CT scan

**Brain Injury**

- Occurs when the head injury is severe enough to cause bleeding in or around the brain
- May require medical intervention such as a stay in the hospital or surgical procedure

In 100 children with minor head injury similar to your child:

- **2 will have brain injury** and **98 will not**

*Kuppermann et al., Lancet, 2009

*This information may not apply to young children who are not yet able to walk or talk.*
After monitoring your child in the emergency department for a period of time, we will find out if there is any serious bleeding in or around the brain with:

- **HEAD CT SCAN**
  - You can have a head CT scan test done to determine if your child has had a brain injury.
  - **SPEED OF DIAGNOSIS**: Now
  - **RADIATION**: Yes
  - **SEDATION**: Possible
  - **COST**: May increase cost depending on your coverage
  - **POTENTIAL DOWNSIDES**: May find irrelevant things that lead to more tests
  - **WAIT IN ED**: Typically longer

- **OBSERVATION AT HOME**
  - If your child's symptoms are the same or better in the next 1-2 days, then there was no serious bleeding in or around the brain.
  - **SPEED OF DIAGNOSIS**: Delayed
  - **RADIATION**: No
  - **SEDATION**: No
  - **COST**: No added cost
  - **POTENTIAL DOWNSIDES**: Potential return to ED if symptoms worsen
  - **WAIT IN ED**: Typically shorter

It is very unlikely, but if your child develops new or worsening symptoms* such as these, bring him/her back to the Emergency Department as soon as possible.

- **Lack of alertness** (if they are becoming less and less alert within the next day)
- **Severely worsening headache** (despite resting)
- **Vomiting** (enough episodes to interfere with eating)
- **Unsteady or cannot walk**
- **Difficulty talking or recognizing people**

* Some symptoms may not apply to young children who are not yet able to walk or talk.

Your child can maintain regular activities such as sleep.

Please circle the issues that are most important to you and your child.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPEED OF DIAGNOSIS</th>
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<th>SEDATION</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>POTENTIAL DOWNSIDES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

After discussing this together, we want to do:

- [ ] **HEAD CT SCAN**
- [ ] **OBSERVATION AT HOME**
- [ ] Let the Emergency Department doctor decide what to do next

You will have the opportunity to revisit this decision with your doctor while you are in the Emergency Department.