

E-Pearl of the Week

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CT-Negative Intracerebral Hemorrhage

Emergent computed tomography (CT) scanning has been considered the gold standard for excluding intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) in the setting of acute stroke. CT may rarely fail to show ICH, however, in the case of severe anemia, in which case the blood's decreased absorption of X-rays prevent it from appearing as a hyperdensity. Other case reports have also demonstrated CT-negative ICH, possibly due to presence of subacute hemorrhage, even in the absence of anemia.

See examples: Kasdon DL, Scott RM, Adelman LS, et al: Cerebellar hemorrhage with decreased absorption values on computed tomography: A case report. *Neuroradiology* 1977; 13: 265-6; Packard AS, Kase CS, Aly AS, Barest GD. "Computed tomography-negative" intracerebral hemorrhage: case report and implications for management. *Arch Neurol* 2003;60:1156-9.