Introduction
CT scan is the diagnostic technique of choice for the evaluation of abdominal injury due to blunt trauma in hemodynamically stable children. CT scan has high sensitivity, specificity and accuracy in the detection of the presence and extent of abdominal injuries. Although operative intervention in these cases were based on clinical criteria rather than imaging findings, CT information frequently increases diagnostic confidence of the surgeons and influence the success of nonoperative management in most children with solid viscus injury.

Aim
To evaluate the findings of MSCT abdomen performed to rule out blunt intra abdominal injury in paediatric and adolescents in our centre.

Methods
• This is a retrospective study.
• All cases of CT scan performed to rule out traumatic intra abdominal injury in patients 18 years old and below from January 2008 until June 2009 were included.
• CT scan images were retrieved and reviewed.
• The study is positive in the presence of solid organ injury, bony pelvis injury and hollow organ injury.
• Organ injuries were graded according to AAST (American Association of Surgery and Trauma) classification.
• Case notes were traced and the management of patients were documented.
• For all patients who had surgical intervention, correlation of CT scan with intra operative findings were done.

Results
A total of 36 patients were included in this study. Out of these 78% (n=28) showed positive and 22% (n=8) showed negative CT scan findings. However, 2 out of 8 patients who had negative CT scan had incidental findings of hydroureteronephrosis (n=1) and huge ovarian cyst (n=1).

Table: Incidence of cases
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>3</td>
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Types of intraoperative findings
- Case 2: 18 year old girl – fall. Had abdominal pain. No organ injury. A large cystic ovarian mass was detected.
- Case 4: 13-year old girl – MVA. Had Grade IV spleen injury & minimal hemoperitoneum in the pelvic cavity. Operative findings: bleeding from a branch of left ovarian artery, laceration of left broad ligament, lower abdominal wall contusion and minimal hemoperitoneum. Other organs (including spleen) were normal.

Conclusion
- Splenic injury is the most common intra abdominal blunt injury seen in our series.
- Pancreatic contusions were the most common injury undiagnosed based on our CT scan findings. However, retrospective review of the CT images, showed some abnormality were actually present in all these cases.
- No significant correlation is seen between the severity of organ injury and the decision for surgical intervention.

References