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Computed tomography (CT) of blunt abdominal trauma: The frequency of incidental findings, how it was documented in radiology report and the implication of these findings to acute trauma care (Article)

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Abstract

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The wide use of computed tomography (CT) scanning for patients with blunt abdominal trauma can reveal incidental findings that vary in their importance. We evaluated these findings, how it was reported by radiologists and its implication on the trauma care. In 30 out of 154 patients, 32 incidental findings were discovered (19.5%). Out of these 32 findings, only 3 cases (9.4%) were considered significant and required immediate attention from the managing team. In all these 3 cases, the findings were described in the body of the report and highlighted in the conclusion section at the end of the radiology report. However, similar reporting style was used in only 58.4% of cases with moderate clinical concern and 23.5% of cases with little clinical concern. In 41.2% of cases with little concern, the incidental findings were not mentioned in the radiology report. In conclusion, incidental findings in CT scan performed for blunt abdominal trauma were common but many were clinically insignificant. There is little consistency in radiology reporting of these findings especially those with moderate and little clinical concern.

Author keywords

[Blunt abdominal trauma](#)
[Computed tomography](#)
[Incidental findings](#)
[Radiology report](#)
[Trauma](#)

Indexed keywords

EMTREE drug terms: [iohexol](#)

EMTREE medical terms: [abdominal blunt trauma](#) [adolescent](#) [adult](#) [aged](#) [aorta aneurysm](#) [article](#) [breast lesion](#) [child](#) [cholelithiasis](#) [clinical article](#) [computer assisted tomography](#) [female](#) [human](#) [hydronephrosis](#) [incidental finding](#) [inguinal hernia](#) [kidney cyst](#) [kidney injury](#) [liver hemangioma](#) [male](#) [nephrolithiasis](#) [ovary cyst](#) [traumatic diaphragmatic hernia](#) [ureteropelvic junction obstruction](#) [very elderly](#)

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers:

iohexol, 66108-95-0

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Somatom, Siemens, Germany

Manufacturers:

Device manufacturer:

Siemens, Germany

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