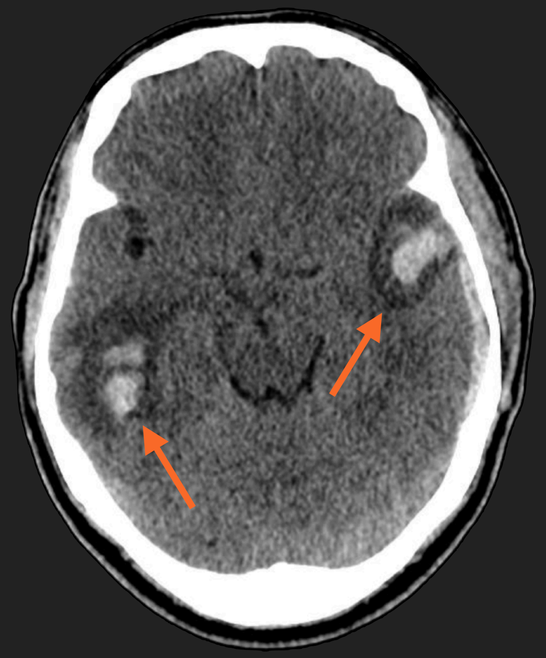
BLOOD CAN BE VERY BAD - THE ABC OF EMERGENCY HEAD CT

- The role of head CT in emergency situations is crucial as it helps identify and diagnose critical findings in a timely manner. To simplify the process and teach a logical and generalizable approach, the mnemonic “Blood Can Be Very Bad” was proposed many years ago. The approach involves a systematic search for the anatomic locations of the most common intracranial emergencies.

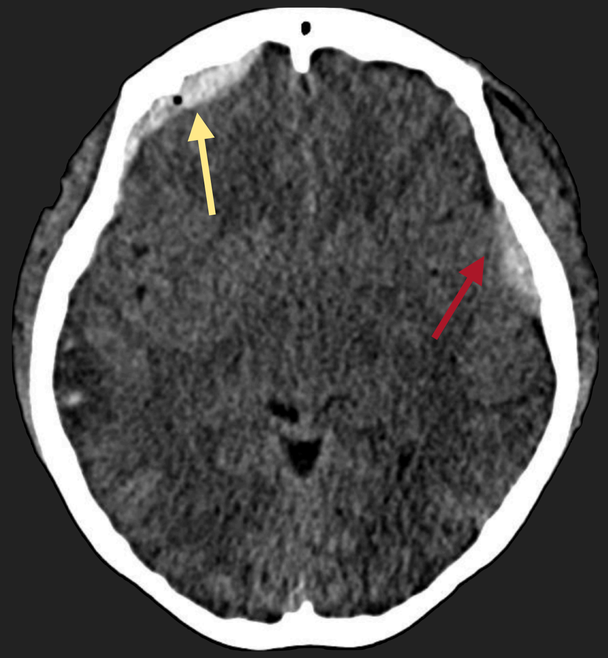
- Blood Can Be Very Bad stands for: **B**lood, **C**isterns, **B**rain, **V**entricles and **B**one

B - BLOOD

- Look for: bleeding - epidural, subdural, intraparenchymal. intraventricular, subarachnoid or extracranial hemorrhage.



Intraparenchymal hemorrhages (orange arrows)



Subdural hemorrhage with pneumocephalus (yellow arrow) and extradural hemorrhage (red arrow)

Extradural hemorrhage (red arrow); intraparenchymal hemorrhage (orange arrow) and midline shift (pink arrow).

C - CISTERNS

- Look for: cisterns - asymmetry, blood, effacement in main cisterns such as Sylvian or suprasellar.

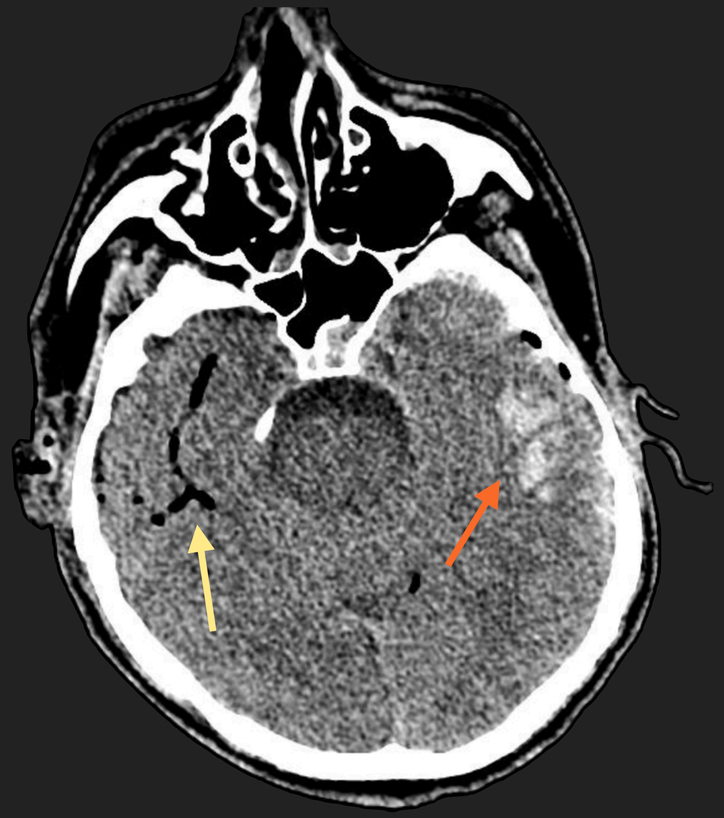
Supracellar cistern hemorrhage (orange arrow).

Sylvian cistern hemorrhage (yellow arrow).

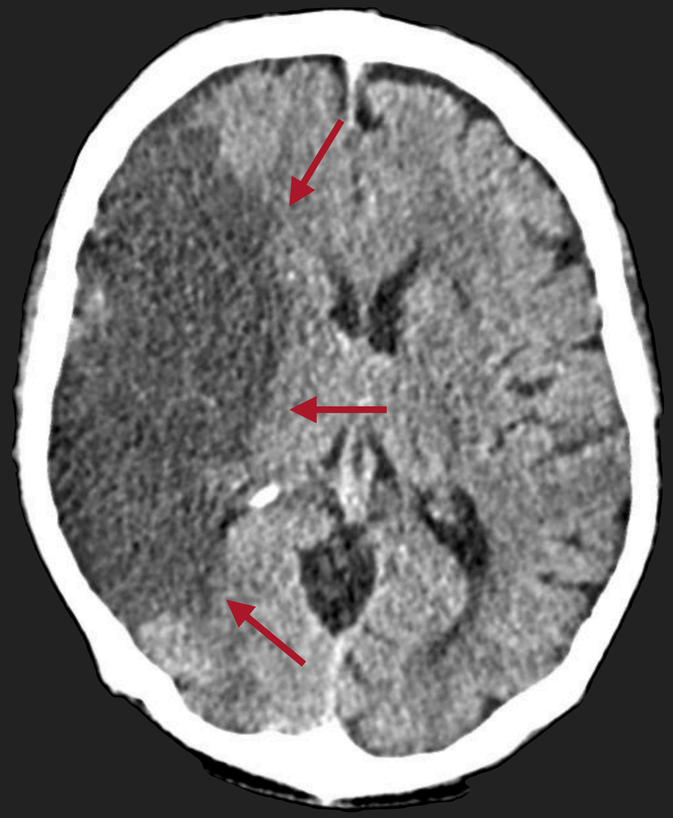
Subarachnoid hemorrhage (red arrow).

B - BRAIN

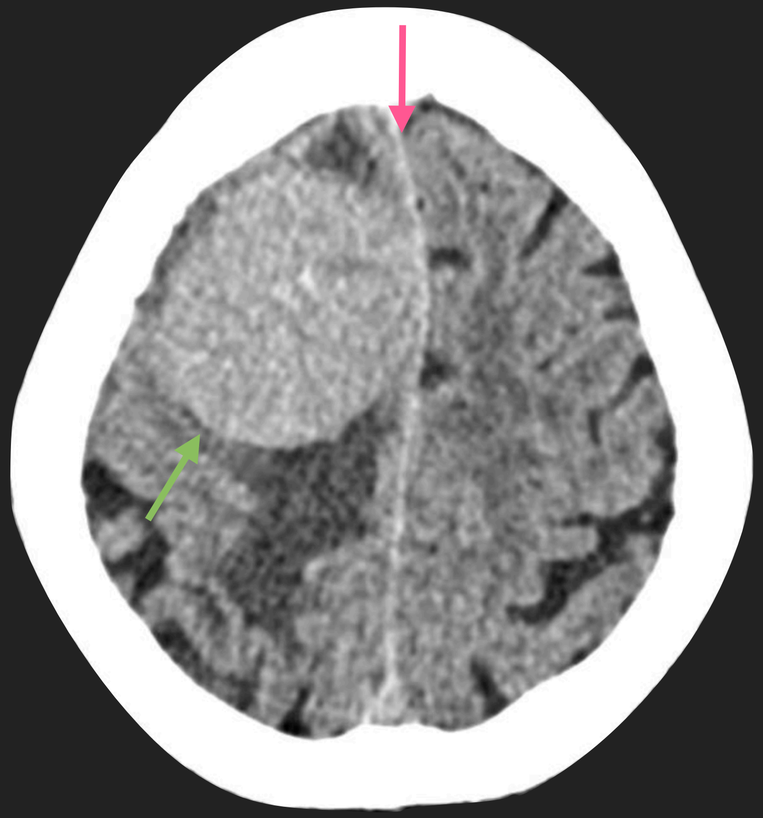
- Look for: brain (parenchyma) - asymmetry, gray-white differentiation, midline shift, hypo/ hyperdensities, pneumocephalus.



Pneumocephalus (yellow arrow), intraparenchymal hemorrhage (orange arrow).



Hypodensity of the medial cerebral artery territory (red arrow).

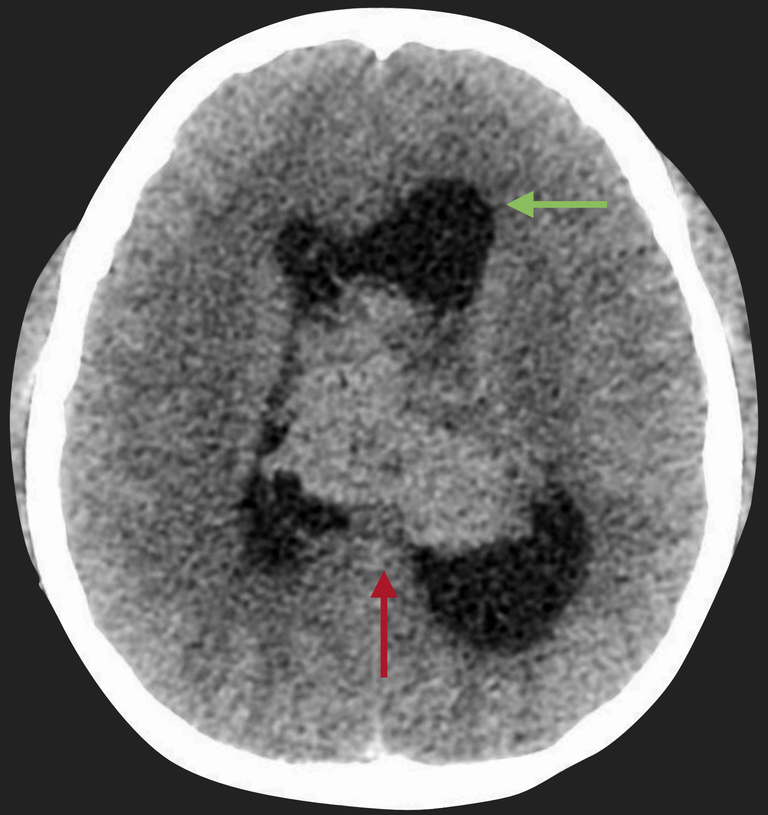


Brain mass with surrounding edema (green arrow) causing midline shift (pink arrow).

V - VENTRICLES

- Look for: ventricles - intraventricular hemorrhage, ventricular effacement. shift, hydrocephalus.

Intraventricular hemorrhage (yellow arrow), intraparenchymal hemorrhage (orange arrow) with surrounding edema and mass-like effect, shifting the midline (pink arrow).

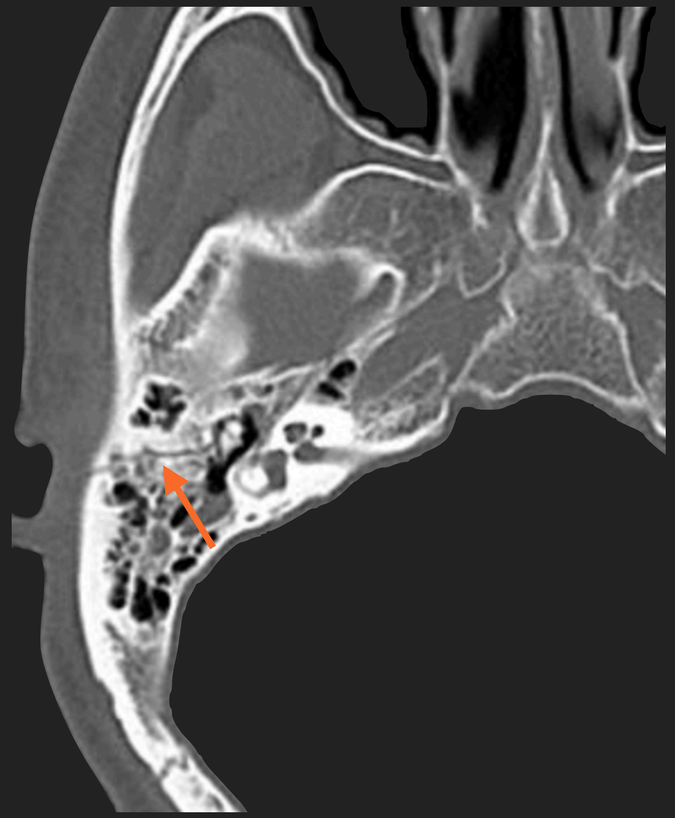


Intraventricular tumor (red arrow) causing obstructive hydrocephalus (green arrow).

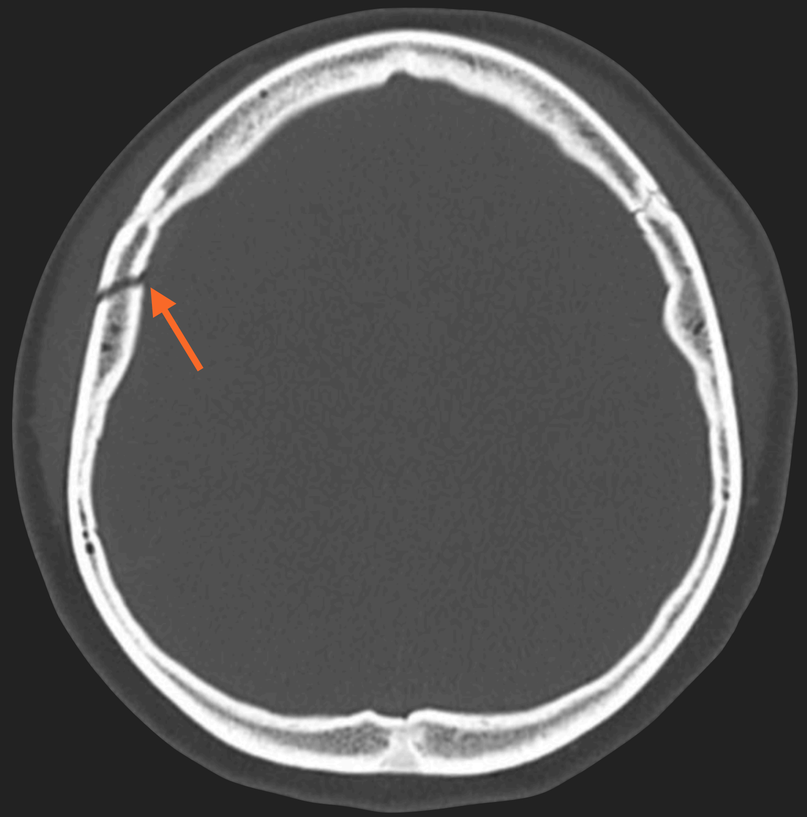
Hydrocephalus (green arrow).

B - BONE

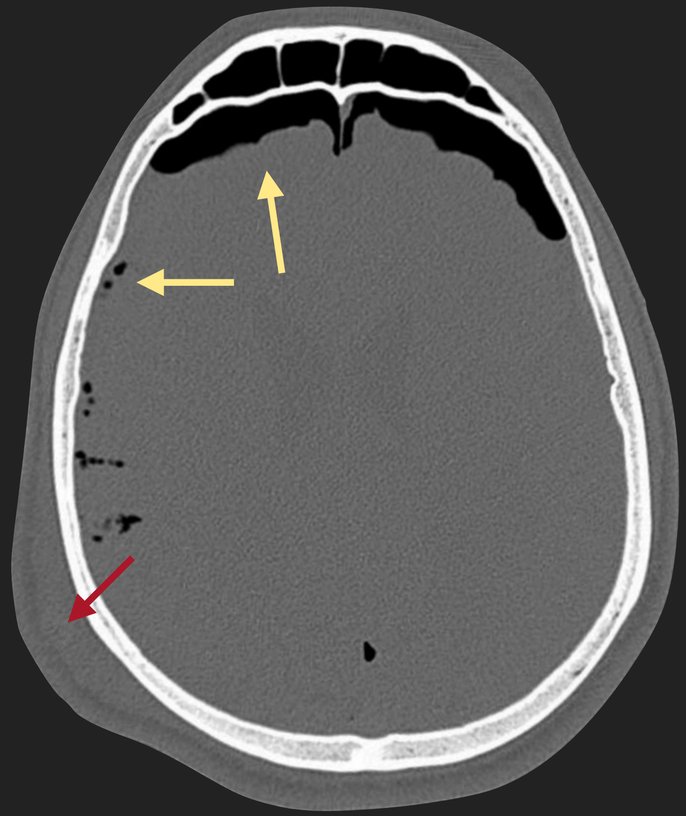
- Look for: bone - skull fracture; paranasal sinuses and mastoid air cells content; soft tisne swelling.



Mastoid fracture (orange arrow).



Parietal bone fracture (orange arrow).



Soft tissue swelling (red arrow) and pneumocephalus (yellow arrow).