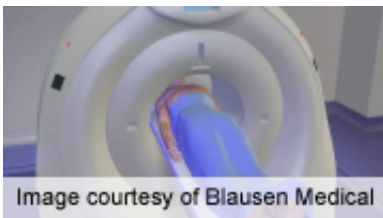


Awareness of risks reduces parents' desire for CT scans

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Willingness to subject children with a head injury to computed tomography (CT) scans decreases once parents are informed of lifetime malignancy risks associated with the scans, but most are still willing to proceed with head CT, according to a study published online July 8 in *Pediatrics*.

(HealthDay)—Willingness to subject children with a head injury to computed tomography (CT) scans decreases once parents are informed of lifetime malignancy risks associated with the scans, but most are still willing to proceed with head CT, according to a study published online July 8 in *Pediatrics*.

Kathy Boutis, M.D., from The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and colleagues conducted a prospective cross-sectional survey of 742 parents (61.2 percent female) whose children presented to a tertiary care [pediatric emergency department](#) with a head injury regarding their willingness to proceed with recommended CT after risk disclosure.

The researchers found that 46.8 percent of parents were aware of the

potential for an increased lifetime malignancy risk associated with CT. The proportion of parents who were "very willing/willing" to proceed with head CT was 90.4 percent before disclosure of the risk, and decreased significantly to 69.6 percent after disclosure. A total 5.6 percent refused the CT. Nearly all parents (90.3 percent) reported that they wanted to be informed of potential malignancy risks.

"We found that approximately half of participating parents were aware of the potential lifetime increase in [malignancy](#) risk associated with CT and most underestimated the risk of CT," the authors write. "In addition, despite many parents demonstrating a decreased willingness to proceed with CT imaging after risk disclosure, almost all were agreeable to pursuing a discussion with their physician in the face of clinical need."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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