

## Cervical Pneumorrhachis

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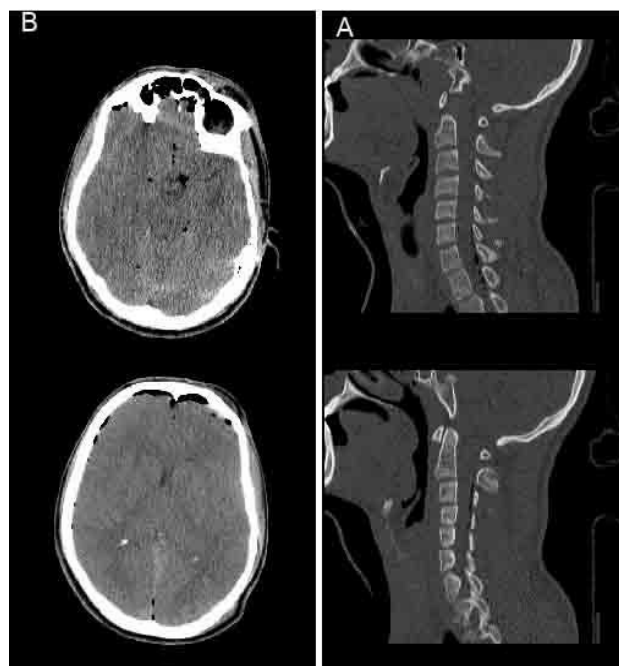
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A 29-year-old man was brought to our trauma center after being hurt in a car-to-patient accident with chief complaints of headache, nausea and neck pain. In physical examination his Glasgow coma scale (GCS) was 14 and his pupils were reactive to light with equal size. He also had upper cervical tenderness on the midline. Brain CT revealed fracture of the anterior fossa of the Skull with pneumocephalus (Figure 1B). A cervical CT was requested to rule out fractures of cervical spine. Interestingly, bubbles of air were noted in the epidural space within cervical canal (Figure 1A). Free air in the epidural space is an uncommon phenomenon that was first reported by Gordon *et al.* in 1977 [1]. Newbold *et al.* introduced the term pneumorrhachis in 1987 [2]. Etiologies other than trauma include iatrogenic manipulations and also malignancy [3]. Traumatic pneumorrhachis is asymptomatic and no treatment is necessary; however it's an indicator of high energy trauma [4].

**Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

### References

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**Fig. 1.** A. Pneumorrhachis; air in subarachnoid space seen in cervical spine, B. Pneumocephalus; due to skull base fracture