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Subgaleal Hematoma

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Synonyms

[Subaponeurotic hematoma](#)

Definition

Potential space, referred to as subgaleal or subaponeurotic space, extends between the skin and the skull from the orbital ridge to the nape of the neck and laterally to the ears. Trauma in this area may result in bleeding into a portion of this space. Such a collection of blood is referred to as a subgaleal (or less commonly, subaponeurotic)

hematoma. A subgaleal hematoma may be associated with closed head injury, but because the injury is external to the skull, it does not provide a direct evidence of intracranial or brain injury. Subgaleal hematoma is also a rare, but potentially fatal, complication to the newborn during childbirth.

Cross-References

► [Head Injury](#)

References and Readings

- Anton, J., Pineda, V., Martin, C., Artigas, J., & Rivera, J. (1999). Posttraumatic subgaleal hematoma: A case report and review of the literature. *Pediatric Emergency Care*, 15(5), 347–349.
- Kilani, R. A., & Wetmore, J. (2005). Neonatal subgaleal hematoma: Presentation and outcome – Radiological findings and factors associated with mortality. *American Journal of Perinatology*, 23(1), 41–48.