

Posttraumatic pneumocephalus

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● [Fracture](#) through [air sinus](#) (frontal, ethmoid...): including [basal skull fracture](#).

● Open fracture over convexity (usually with dural laceration)

May indicate [skull fracture](#) (basal or open convexity).

In the presence of a [frontal sinus fracture](#), intracranial air (pneumocephalus) on CT, even without a clinically evident CSF leak must be presumed to be due to dural laceration (although it could also be due to a basal skull fracture).

In the presence of pneumocephalus, if no obvious dural laceration is found, the dural undersurface of the [frontal lobes](#) should be checked for [leaks](#). Extradural inspection and repair is rarely indicated; the act of lifting the dura off the floor of the frontal fossa in the region of the ethmoid sinuses often creates lacerations ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Lewin W. Cerebrospinal Fluid Rhinorrhea in Closed Head Injuries. Br J Surgery. 1954; 17:1-18

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