

Swirl sign

The swirl sign refers to the non-contrast CT appearance of acute extravasation of blood into a hematoma, for example an extradural hematoma or subdural hematoma. It represents unclotted fresh blood which is of lower attenuation than the clotted blood which surrounds it ¹⁾.



Black curved arrow

It is the corollary of the [spot sign](#) on CTA which represents the same phenomenon, but in that case caused by contrast extravasation ²⁾.

see Gupta VK, Seth A. "Swirl Sign" in Extradural Hematoma. World Neurosurg. 2018 Oct 10. pii: S1878-8750(18)32302-7. doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2018.10.010. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30315986.

¹⁾

Al-Nakshabandi NA. The swirl sign. Radiology. 2001 Feb;218(2):433. PubMed PMID: 11161158.

²⁾

Wada R, Aviv RI, Fox AJ, Sahlas DJ, Gladstone DJ, Tomlinson G, Symons SP. CT angiography "spot sign" predicts hematoma expansion in acute intracerebral hemorrhage. Stroke. 2007 Apr;38(4):1257-62. Epub 2007 Feb 22. PubMed PMID: 17322083.

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