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# The validity of Protein S 100B in Mild Pediatric Head Trauma

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### ABSTRACT

Background; S100B has been shown to be beneficial as a biomarker in the treatment of adults with mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). The efficacy of S100B as a biomarker in children, on the other hand, has been a subject of debate. Aim and objectives; was to assess the validity of Protein S 100B in Mild Pediatric Head trauma. Subjects and methods; this was a prospective study, included 160 pediatric patients with mild head trauma presented to Emergency Department. Result; A highly significant correlation between Positive S100B protein and traumatic brain injury with S100B protein value  $1554.1 \pm 84.0$  ng/L. A100 had cutoff value for positive CT Brain finding above 987.5 ng/L, The sensitivity was 81.0%, the specificity was 75%, the NPV was 86%, the PPV was 68%, and overall accuracy 77%. There was none statistical significant difference regarding severity of brain injury and S100 B ( $P = 0.225$ ), Conclusion; Serum S100B levels cannot be used to substitute clinical examinations or CT scans in identifying pediatric patients with mild head injuries, but they can be used to identify low-risk kids to avoid excessive radiation exposure.

**Keywords:** S100B, biomarker, CT Brain, mild head injuries, Pediatric.

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## INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that trauma is a worldwide problem and a main cause of morbidity and mortality universally. In the first four decades of life, the most common cause of death is trauma [1].

Traumatic brain injury [TBI] is one of the most widely used presentations to the emergency department, which accounts for more than 500 000 visits of children per year in the USA [2]. Mild [82.7%], moderate [12.5%], and severe head damage were the initial severity of traumatic brain damage as determined by the Glasgow Coma Scale [GCS] [4.7 %] [3].

More than 95% percent of head injuries in children are classified as mild head trauma [MHT], which is defined as a Glasgow Coma Scale [GCS] score of 13 or above on computed tomography. Less than 10% of these individuals suffer traumatic brain injuries [TBI], and less than 1% require neurosurgery [4].

Between 1995 and 2005, the number of children who had a head computed tomography scan more than doubled. CT is reported to be used in about half of children with moderate traumatic brain damage in some settings [5].

In the United States, the usage of head computerized tomography [CT] has increased thrice in the last decade without an increase in the rate of life-threatening diagnoses being detected [6].

In children younger than ten years, the risk of developing leukemia or brain tumors from a single CT scan is estimated to be 1 in 10,000. The same study found that numerous scans with radiation doses ranging from two to three head CTs [approximately 60 mGy total brain exposure] tripled the risk of brain cancers [RR 3.32] when compared to doses of less than 5 mGy [7].

S100B protein has long been recognized as a useful tool for detecting the initiation or progression of brain injury, as well as associating with a poor prognosis in a variety of neuro critical illnesses, including TBI,

subarachnoid hemorrhage, stroke, and brain death [8]. The S100B protein can help a doctor decide whether a head CT is necessary for a child under the age of 16 who has had a minor head injury. Its high sensitivity suggests it could be a useful tool for determining whether or not an intracranial damage exists. However, because of its low specificity, it can't be utilized as a stand-alone marker; however, when combined with clinical decision guidelines, S100B could help reduce the number of needless CT scans [9]. S100B measurement, according to the American College of Emergency Physicians, might cut the number of unneeded CT scans by 30% [10].

## PATIENTS & METHODS

This was a prospective study, included 160 pediatric patients with mild head trauma presented to Emergency Department

**Inclusion criteria:** Age below 18 years old, Both sexes, Mild head trauma According to the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine is a patient with a GCS of 13 or more who has had a traumatically induced physiologic disruption of brain function, as manifested by at least one of the following: Any period of loss of consciousness less than 30 min, Any loss of memory for events immediately before or after the accident [posttraumatic amnesia should last <24 hr ], Any alteration in mental state at the time of the accident [eg, feeling dazed, disoriented, or confused] and Focal neurologic deficit[s] that may or may not be transient

**Exclusion criteria:** Pediatric patients with moderate or severe head injury, Patients with underlying medical conditions affecting results of study like bleeding tendency and Patients transferred from other hospitals after performing any medical or surgical procedure.

**Methods:** Pediatric patients with mild head trauma presented to manage according to Advanced Trauma Life support Guidelines [ATLS] consisting of primary survey, secondary survey and adjuncts.

• **Primary survey assessment by ABCDE approach with its adjuncts**

**Airway:** Airway assessment for patency by speaking to the patient and absence of hoarseness or stridor or gurgling sound for upper airway secretions. Assessment for airway protection by presence of airway reflexes And Exclusion of risk factors for airway compromise as facial burn, neck vascular injury, massive surgical emphysema, GCS 8 or less, Use of oxygen mask. Stabilize spinal column with spinal motion restriction techniques. Take X-ray for Cervical spine

**Breathing:**

1. Assessment of breathing by examination: Inspection: inspect chest wall for respiratory rate, any visible chest open wounds, contusions, lacerations, stab wounds, paradoxical respiration indicating flail segment. Palpation: palpation of chest wall for equal chest expansion, any clicks for fracture ribs and surgical emphysema. Percussion: percussion of chest wall for excluding hyperresonance indicating pneumothorax or dullness indicating hemothorax. Auscultation: auscultation of equal bilateral breath sounds, detecting any additional sounds as crepitation, wheezes and auscultation of heart sounds.

Excluding life threatening injuries as tension pneumothorax, cardiac tamponade, flail chest, massive hemothorax and open pneumothorax.

2. Use of pulse oximetry to detect oxygen saturation
3. Take chest X-ray.

**Circulation:** Assessment of circulation by reading blood pressure, heart rate, capillary refill time and urine output monitoring, abdominal examination by Inspection for any bruises, evisceration and Palpation for pelvic stability, tenderness. Focussed Assessment Sonography for Trauma, Inserting 2 wide bore canula, taking blood sample for ABO typing, cross matching, labs. Take a venous blood sample for S100B protein serum analysis. Take a pelvic X-ray.

**Disability:** Neurological assessment and disability: Level of consciousness: age-appropriate Glasgow Coma Scale, signs of lateralization and Pupil size bilateral and reactivity, Random blood sugar reading and Order CT brain for our pediatric patients with mild head trauma

CT brain through the skull base to the vertex done and trauma-relevant lesions [subdural, epidural, or intracerebral hemorrhages; bland contusion; edema; pneumocephalus; and skull fracture] were searched for and blinded to the S100-B level.

**Exposure:** Exposure from head to toe and Log Roll the patient to search for any hidden injuries and examine the back. Keep dignity of the patient by exposing part by part. Avoid hypothermia during exposure

➤ **Secondary survey**

- ✓ **AMPLE history:** Allergies, Medication. Past medical history, Last meal, Event of trauma, Mechanism of injury and ask about symptoms of mild traumatic brain injury: Any period of loss of consciousness less than 30 min. Any loss of memory for events immediately before or after the accident [posttraumatic amnesia should last <24 hr]. Any alteration in mental state at the time of the accident [eg, feeling dazed, disoriented, or confused]. Focal neurologic deficit[s] that may or may not be transient

- ✓ **Examination:** Organized, complete examination to detect additional injury.

- ✓ **Investigations**

➤ **CT Brain was done for all our patients.**

➤ **S 100 Protein analysis.**

**Statistical analysis:** The data collected were tabulated and analyzed by SPSS statistical package version 20 on IBM compatible computer. Quantitative data were expressed as mean and standard deviation [ $X \pm SD$ ], and qualitative data expressed as number and percentage [No. & %]. Analysis was by applying Pearson's Chi-Square test and Fisher's exact

test. Level of significance set as P value < 0.05. Rule of S100B protein to predict TBI in CT Brain was evaluated

## RESULTS

The socio-demographic data of our study showing that Males of our patients [88] 55 % more than females [72] 45 % of our patients, age of our patients range from 3 months–15 years with mean age  $5.0 \pm 3.8$ . Table [1]

Different clinical data in our patients with mild head trauma definition showing most common MOT among our patients was FFH 40 % and RTA 40 % with severe mechanism of injury in 37% of the patients. AMS was the presentation in 25 % of the patients. Cephalhematoma was found in 32.5% of the patients Temporal 15%, Parietal 12.5%, Occipital 8%. Loss of consciousness was the presentation in 27.5 % of the patients with duration more than 5 secs in 91% of them. Abnormal behaviour to the parents was the complaint in 32.5 % of our patients. Patients presented by vomiting were 62.5 % of the patients with number of vomiting mean  $\pm$ SD  $1.5 \pm 1.3$  ranging from 1- 4 times.

Headache presented in 5 % of our patients. On recording CT Brain finding we found traumatic brain injury in 40 % of patients and in 60 % of patients no traumatic brain injury signs found. Table [2]

A highly significant correlation between Positive S100B protein and traumatic brain injury with S100B protein value  $1554.1 \pm 84.0$  ng/L. Table [3]

A100 had cutoff value for positive CT Brain finding above 987.5 ng/L. The sensitivity was 81.0%, the specificity was 75%%, the NPV was 86%, the PPV was 68%, and overall accuracy 77%. Table [4]

There was none statistical significant difference regarding severity of brain injury and S100 B [P = 0.225]. Table [5]

The multiple logistic regression models between positive vs. negative CT pathology in patient with minor head trauma showed that Low GCS, vomiting, abnormal behavior to the parents, non-frontal hematoma and abnormal mental status were independent significant predictive factors to increased risk of pathology in CT by 4.4, 10.4, 1.2, 7.5 and 24.2 times respectively. Table [6]

**Table 1: Socio-demographic data of the studied cases [no=160]**

Variables	
Age [years]	
• Mean $\pm$ SD	5.0 $\pm$ 3.8
• Range	3 months – 15 years
Gender	
• Male	88 [55.0%]
• Female	72 [45.0%]

**Table 2: Clinical data analysis in the studied cases:**

Clinical data analysis	
Mode of trauma [MOT]	
• Falling from stairs	4 [2.5%]
• Falling from height [FFH]	64 [40.0%]
• localized head trauma	28 [17.5%]
• Road traffic accident [RTA]	64 [40.0%]
sever mode of trauma	
• No	100 [62.5%]
• Yes	60 [37.5%]
• GCS [mean $\pm$ SD]	14.6 $\pm$ 0.73 [13.0 – 15.0]
Altered mental status [AMS]	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No</li> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>	120 40	[75.0%] [25.0%]
<b>Cephalhematoma</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occipital</li> <li>• Partial</li> <li>• Temporal</li> </ul>	8 20 24	[5.0%] [12.5%] [15.0%]
<b>Loss of consciousness</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No</li> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>	116 44	[72.5%] [27.5%]
<b>Loss of consciousness duration</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5 sec</li> <li>• More than 5 sec</li> </ul>	4 40	[9.0%] [91.0%]
<b>Abnormal behavior to parents</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>	52 108	[32.5%] [67.5%]
<b>Vomiting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No</li> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>	60 100	[37.5%] [62.5%]
<b>Number of vomiting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean <math>\pm</math>SD</li> <li>• Range</li> </ul>	1.5 $\pm$ 1.3 1.0 – 4.0	
<b>Headache</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No</li> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>	152 8	[95.0%] [5.0%]
<b>CT finding</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive</li> <li>• Negative</li> </ul>	64 96	[40.0%] [60.0%]

Table 3: S100 protein level and CT finding

Variable	CT finding		T test	P value
	Positive	Negative		
<b>S100</b>			9.4	0.001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mean <math>\pm</math>SD</li> </ul>	1554.1 $\pm$ 84.0	794.3 $\pm$ 329.8		

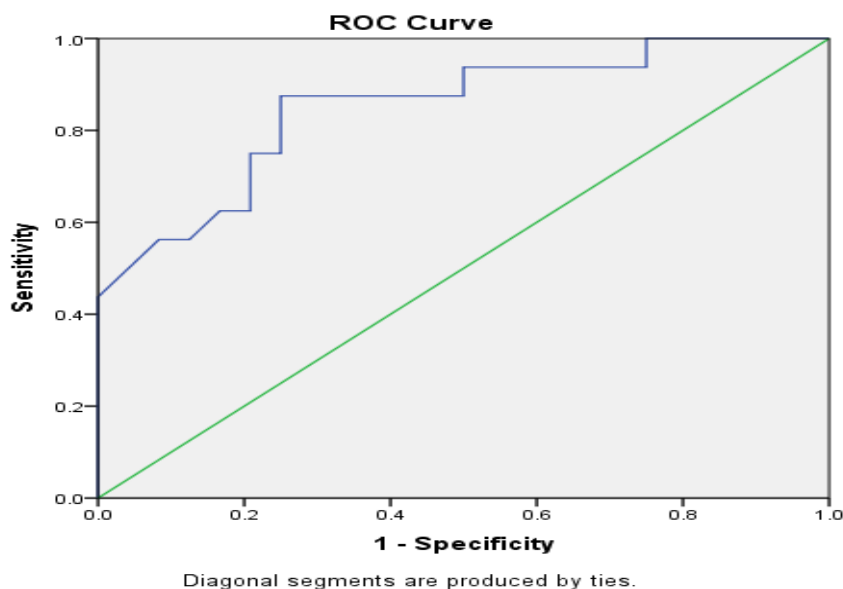


Figure [1]: ROC curve for validity of S100 for predication of Traumatic Brain Injury.

Variable	best cut off	AUC	Sensitivity %	Specificity %	PPV%	NPV%	Accuracy %
S100	> 987.5	0.850	81%	75%	68%	86%	77%

AUC [area under the curve]

PPV [positive predicative value]

NPV [negative predicative value]

**Table 5: Correlation between severity of brain injury by CT and S100B**

Variable	Severity of brain injury by CT finding		T test	P value
	Severe	non-severe		
S100 • mean $\pm$ SD	1743.2 $\pm$ 786.8	1310.7 $\pm$ 297.4	1.2	0.225

**Table 6: Multivariate regression analysis of parameters that may be associated with pathology in CT**

Variables	P value	Odds ratio	95%CI
Age	0.805	1.0	0.89 – 1.1
Low GCS	0.04	4.4	1.06 – 18.3
Vomiting	0.001	10.4	3.4 – 31.8
Headache	0.677	1.4	0.290 – 7.4
Abnormal behavior to the parents	0.717	1.2	0.342 – 4.7
Non-frontal hematoma	0.001	7.5	2.8 – 20.0
Abnormal mental status	0.016	24.2	1.8 – 321.6

95% Confidence interval [95% CI]

## DISCUSSION

Trauma occurs when an uncontrollable force or an acute source of energy comes into direct touch with the body and the body can no longer handle it. Trauma was the eighth largest cause of mortality in Egypt in 2010, accounting for 8% of the population. Because to underreporting and misclassification, injury is several times higher in Egypt. Many research have attempted to make definitive predictions of brain death following damage; brain death prediction is useful since it allows us to save bodily organs if transplantation is considered [11].

In pediatric populations, traumatic brain injury [TBI] is a common reason for visits to the emergency department. Children's TBI is also one of the top causes of death and morbidity. In

pediatric patients, communication challenges can block the correct and timely gathering of a thorough injury history as well as the detection of TBI indicators [12].

In order to reduce death and long-term disability, it is critical to conduct an accurate initial assessment and intervene early in the treatment of patients with HI. Assessing a patient's degree of consciousness, on the other hand, is a tough task, owing to the difficulties in identifying fully objective and user-independent terminology. To meet this demand, several scales have evolved through the years [13].

The aim of the current study was to assess the validity of Protein S 100B in Mild Pediatric Head trauma.

This was a prospective interventional study that included mild isolated head trauma patients presented to emergency department, where 160 patients were evaluated clinically by PECARN decision rule and taking blood sample for S100B protein then CT Brain for diagnosis of traumatic brain injury.

As regard the socio-demographic data of our study showing that Males of our patients [88] 55 % more than females [72] 45 % of our patients, and the age of our patients ranged from 3 months–15 years with mean age  $5.0 \pm 3.8$  years.

Kelmendi et al., <sup>[14]</sup> conducted a study on a total of 80 individuals with mild TBI who met the inclusion criteria for this investigation, which agrees with our findings. Forty-six patients were male [57.5%], and 34 patients were female [42.5%]. The mean age was 9.1 years [SD  $\pm 3.8$  years].

Between January 2009 and December 2011, Manzano et al., <sup>[15]</sup> conducted A multicenter prospective cohort study in the pediatric emergency departments of three Swiss tertiary hospitals. A total of 80 patients with mild TBI met the study's inclusion criteria.. Forty-six patients were male 35 [66.0], the mean age was 94.0 [56.5] months.

In the current study, different clinical data in our patients with mild head trauma definition showing most common mode of trauma among our patients was FFH 40 % and RTA 40 % with severe mechanism of injury in 37% of the patients, mean  $\pm$  SD of GCS was  $14.6 \pm 0.73$  with range [13.0 – 15.0], 25.0% had altered mental status, as regard CT finding 64 [40.0%] were Positive and 96 [60.0%] were negative. AMS was the presentation in 25 % of the patients. Cephalhematoma was found in 32.5% of the patients Temporal 15%, Parietal 12.5%, Occipital 8%. Loss of consciousness was the presentation in 27.5 % of the patients with duration more than 5 secs in 91% of them. Abnormal behaviour to the parents was the complaint in 32.5 % of our patients, Patients presented by vomiting was 62.5 % of the patients with number of vomiting mean  $\pm$ SD 1.5

$\pm 1.3$  ranging from 1- 4 times and Headache presented in 5 % of our patients. On recording CT Brain finding we found traumatic brain injury in 40 % of patients and in 60 % of patients no traumatic brain injury signs found.

Elbaih et al., <sup>[11]</sup> reported that regarding the mechanism of trauma; the direct trauma was the most common cause of head trauma [47.7%], followed by motor car accident [MCA] [31.8%].

These results were not similar to the results by Egea-Guerrero et al., <sup>[16]</sup> in which MCA was the most common cause of head trauma [60%] in the patients. This may be due to the inclusion criteria of patients in both studies as they selected severe head trauma in polytrauma patients, while in our study the selected patients had only isolated severe head trauma not associated with extracranial injuries, Elbaih et al., <sup>[11]</sup> showed that the mean GCS among patients with severe head trauma was  $6.59 \pm 1.49$  which was associated with tachypnea and tachycardia. This was similar to the results of a study performed by Shakeri et al., <sup>[17]</sup> in which the average of primary GCS score of patients was  $5 \pm 2$ .

According to Kelmendi et al., <sup>[12]</sup>, the participants were divided into two groups: [a] a negative CT group [CT-], which included patients with no evidence of cranial damage on CT; and [b] a positive CT group [CT+], which included patients with at least one trauma-related lesion on CT.., most common mode of trauma among their patients was FFH 21 % and RTA 23 % with severe mechanism of injury in 31.3% of the patients, 44 [55.0] had loss of consciousness.

S100B is associated with cell differentiation and cell cycle progression, and under experimental conditions, it has been demonstrated to suppress apoptosis. Extracellularly, given S100B increases neurogenesis and neuronal plasticity, executes neuro-modulating effects, and improves memory and learning processes in both normal and stressful settings. <sup>[18]</sup>.



In the present study, we demonstrated that there was highly significant correlation between Positive S100B protein and traumatic brain injury with S100B protein value  $1554.1 \pm 84.0$  ng/L.

In the prospective study of Kelmendi et al., [12], the mean S100B level in our series was  $0.398 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  [SD  $\pm 0.298 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ], and the 95% CI ranged from  $0.332$  to  $0.465 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . A total of 53 patients [66.3%] had cranial lesions, Patients with cranial injury, as demonstrated by CT, had higher S100B protein levels than those without cranial injury [ $p < 0.0001$ ]. The mean serum S100B protein level in patients without cranial injury [head CT-] was  $0.145 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  [95% CI  $0.138$ – $0.152 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ], while the mean serum S100B protein level in patients with cranial injury [head CT+] was  $0.527 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  [95% CI  $0.447$ – $0.607 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ].

On the other hand, we found that s100 had cutoff value for positive CT Brain finding above 987.5 ng/L. The sensitivity was 81.0%, the specificity was 75%%, the NPV was 86%, the PPV was 68%, and overall accuracy 77%.

In Elbaih et al., [11], study, the ROC analysis showed that the 2 h S100B could predict the conservative way of management with AUC [0.76,  $P=0.002$ ] with a sensitivity of 76% and specificity of 75% with fair accuracy [76%], while the ROC analysis of the 48 h S100B showed better AUC [0.94,  $P=0.00$ ] with a sensitivity of 100% and specificity of 86% with excellent accuracy [90%]. Also in the same study, the ROC analysis showed that the 2 h S100B had the ability to predict the length of stay in the ICU with AUC [0.8,  $P=0.000$ ] with a sensitivity of 58% and specificity of 100% with good accuracy [80%].

Similar to the results by Egea-Guerrero et al., [16] in which the ROC curve showed that S100B had AUC 0.80 at admission and 0.86 at 24 h later and in their study in order to maximize the relationship between sensitivity and specificity, they used the highest AUC plot [24 h] to assign a cutoff value for serum S100B [ $0.372 \mu\text{g/l}$ ] with 85.7% sensitivity, 79.3% specificity, 18.7%

positive predictive value, and 98.9% negative predictive value. These dissimilarities may be due to the difference in the time of sample collection and the variance in the cutoff value as they collected the samples at admission and after 24 h, while in our study, the samples had been collected at 2 h after admission and 48 h after head trauma.

When children were included within 3 hours after the TBI, Bouvier et al., [19] discovered a 100% sensitivity and a 33% specificity. Others 27 32, on the other hand, exhibited the same sensitivity as well as greater specificity when included children within 6 hours. Furthermore, in the present study, there was none statistical significant difference regarding severity of brain injury and S100 B [ $P = 0.225$ ], this in comparison with the study of Abdelfattah et al., [20] which reported that the median level of protein S100B in survivors was 0.33, 0.26, and  $0.14 \mu\text{g/L}$ , respectively but in non-survivors, the median level was 0.4, 1.7, and  $2.9 \mu\text{g/L}$ , respectively.

Another interesting finding is that we assessed the multiple logistic regression models between positive vs. negative CT pathology in patient with minor head trauma showed that Low GCS, vomiting, abnormal behavior to the parents, non-frontal hematoma and abnormal mental status were independent significant predictive factors to increased risk of pathology in CT by 4.4, 10.4, 1.2, 7.5 and 24.2 times respectively.

Our results were in agreement with Andrade et al., [21] of the 1006 children assessed, 101 had some abnormalities on head computed tomography scans, with 49 being hospitalized, 16 being kept under surveillance, and 36 being discharged. There was no neurosurgery performed on any of the patients. There was no statistically significant link seen between patient age, period between incident and admission, or trauma-related signs/symptoms and aberrant imaging results. There was a statistically significant link [ $p=0.044$ ] between aberrant imaging results and a fall greater than 1.0 metre.

The limitations of our study are although we used an average sample size, the sample size



was still small and the study could not be blind which might have introduced some bias into the results. Additionally, the accuracy of S100B dimer as a diagnostic and prognostic tool is still debatable and could not be precisely detected from other causes that lead to chronic S100B dimer rise, which may lead to its rise in the initial evaluation, so it should be scanned and rolled out from the start.

## CONCLUSION

To summarize, serum S100B levels cannot be used to substitute clinical examinations or CT scans in identifying pediatric kids with moderate head injuries; nevertheless, they can be used to identify low-risk individuals and avoid excessive radiation exposure. Incorporating recommendations for S100B level measurement into the guidelines for the management of mild head injury could eliminate the need for an unnecessary CT scan, which is currently recommended for patients with mild head injuries, reducing radiation exposure in the pediatric population while also saving valuable healthcare resources. Measuring S100B protein levels in emergency patients may help to enhance emergency care by minimizing needless testing and lengths of stay in crowded emergency departments.

**Consent for Publication:** I confirm that all authors accept the manuscript for submission.

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