

Appendix 2 (as supplied by the authors): Basic cost analysis

Methods: A basic cost analysis of routine CT scans was also done based on institutional CT scanner operating costs and costs associated with radiologists' reading and interpretation of scans, as per the Ontario Health Insurance Plan Fee of Schedules and Benefits.

Results: The average operating cost of performing a single plain CT head at our institution was \$56.00 CDN plus an additional \$43.25 CDN charged on behalf of the radiologist for performance and interpretation of the scan, for a total of \$99.25 per scan. Complex CT heads with three-dimensional reconstructions and vascular imaging further increase the cost. In this cohort, a total of 1470 head CT scans were performed in 607 patients, 1225 of which were done for "routine" follow-up without any documented neurological change in the patient and none of which resulting in surgical intervention. If an assumption is made that all were plain CT scans, a conservative estimate of \$145 897.50 CDN was spent, \$121 581.25 CDN of which were for "routine" scans.