Image Diagnosis: Interesting Computed Tomography Scans from the Emergency Department

**Figure 1. Subarachnoid Hemorrhage, acute**
Noncontrast computed tomography scan of the brain demonstrates extensive subarachnoid hemorrhage. The white star-shaped distribution is blood in the ventricular system. Blood is also found within the peripheral sulci. Because this is a noncontrast image, cerebrospinal fluid should appear dark unless there is blood, which appears white in the acute setting. The temporal horns of both lateral ventricles are prominent, and the third and fourth ventricles are enlarged given the patient’s age, brain composition, and level of image. These findings are consistent with obstruction.

**Figure 2. Subdural Hemorrhage, chronic**
Large left frontal-parietal subdural hemorrhage with extensive midline shift. Although it appears as if this patient is rotated, the mass effect of the large subdural is causing movement of brain parenchyma to the right, compressing the left lateral ventricle. This is likely a chronic subdural hemorrhage, as the blood does not appear white as in Figure 1.

**Figure 3. Basal Ganglia Intraparenchymal Hemorrhage, acute**
Large intraparenchymal hemorrhage deep in the left basal ganglia. There is neither midline shift nor obstruction. This hemorrhage is acute, as the blood appears white.

Gus M Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, is a Senior Emergency Medicine Physician at the Santa Clara Medical Center. He is also the Co-Program Director of the Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine (Surgery) at Stanford University. E-mail: gus.garmel@kp.org.