First do no harm, reducing potentially unnecessary lumbar punctures in the investigation of spontaneous subarachnoid haemorrhage

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The Question
Could we safely reduce the rate of unnecessary lumbar punctures in the investigation of patients presenting with possible spontaneous SAH?

The Results
• Reduction in time to CT from being seen in ED from 146 to 59 minutes.
• Reduction in time to CT from arriving in ED from 286 to 198 minutes.
• Reduction in Unnecessary LP rate from 0.75 to 0.22.
• Admission rate from 100% to 79%. 8 admissions avoided thus far.
• No patients re-admitted with SAH following discharge from ED/AMU.

The Methods
Using the IHI Model for improvement I formed a multidisciplinary team and conducted various PDSA cycles to try and improve the quality of care for this patient group.