

International Award for the Lüneburg Clinic

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Only necessary CT examinations thanks to blood tests



Dallas, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur: There are a total of twelve flags on the world map that show which hospitals have been awarded the **international laboratory medicine award "UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence"** in 2024. A flag - and the only one in Germany - stands for the clinic in Lüneburg. A paper on "reducing unnecessary CT examinations in the emergency room through a new assessment path for minor head injuries" convinced the independent jury of experts. The team responsible for this, led by Dr. Felix Brüning-Wolter, Meike Schrader, Nicola Wolff, Prof. Thomas Rodt and Dr. Jörg Cramer accepted the award personally in Lüneburg.

CT if traumatic brain injury is suspected?

It all started with a specialist article about biomarkers in the blood that Dr. Jörg Cramer, chief physician at the Clinic for Trauma Surgery and Orthopedics, his colleague, Dr. who was still employed at the clinic at the time, Felix Brüning-Wolter, had placed in the compartment. "I was very interested in the topic. In the emergency room, we always had the option of using a blood count to determine whether a patient should have a CT scan if a traumatic brain injury was suspected, but the method was very time-consuming," recalls Brüning-Wolter. "We often couldn't wait that long."



Laboratory manager Meike Schrader also confirms this. "With the switch to new devices, we suddenly had the opportunity to determine new biomarkers." This is how the idea came about to test and evaluate this new method. The result: 41 percent of patients in the emergency room with a mild traumatic brain injury have since been able to avoid a CT scan and the associated radiation exposure. "The use of the new test helps to make treatment decisions," explains chief physician Dr. Jörg Cramer. An objective biomarker for these decisions is particularly useful in younger patients.

"UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence" award recognizes the achievements of the Lüneburg team

In addition to patient safety and higher clinical reliability, the improved use of resources and lower healthcare costs - after all, the new method saves almost 25,000 euros a year - were also crucial for the jury. The UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award, organized by the pharmaceutical and medical technology group Abbott, recognizes teams around the world who work together across different disciplines, transform healthcare and change the lives of patients.



The winning team (from left to right) Head of Trauma Surgery Dr. med. Jörg Cramer, Senior Physician Nicola Wolff, Laboratory Manager Meike Schrader and Surgeon Dr. med. Felix Brüning-Wolter together with the Medical Director of the Clinic, Prof. Dr. med. Torsten Kucharzik.