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Battle's Sign

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Synonyms

[Periauricular or mastoid ecchymosis](#)

Definition

Named after English surgeon, Dr. William Henry Battle, this is a clinical symptom suggestive of basilar skull/middle cranial fossa fracture. After blunt force head trauma, leaking of blood from the blood vessels in the skull, typically the posterior

auricular artery, leads to a crescent-shaped bruise wrapping behind the base of the earlobe and extending posteriorly toward the point of the neck where the base of the skull meets the neck. A patient with this symptom may present with acute bloody discharge of the ear and/or nose. Battle's sign may occur a few days following the onset of the skull fracture.

Cross-Reference

► [Depressed Skull Fracture](#)

References and Readings

Victor, M., & Ropper, A. H. (2001). *Principles of neurology* (7th ed.pp. 925–953). New York: McGraw-Hill.