

Zur Diagnostik des idiopathischen Normaldruckhydrozephalus aus der Perspektive von Langzeitbeobachtungen

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Summary

Meier U, Lemcke J. [Diagnostic methods of normal-pressure hydrocephalus.] Schweiz Arch Neurol Psychiatr. 2007;158:139–49.

Currently there is no gold standard and no non-invasive diagnostic method for the idiopathic normal-pressure hydrocephalus which allows a valid prediction of the outcome after a shunt operation.

The experience of our working group includes 670 patients whom we examined between May 1982 and September 1997 in the Department of Neurosurgery of the Friedrichshain Hospital and between September 1997 and July 2005 in the Department of Neurosurgery of the Unfallkrankenhaus in Berlin using non-invasive and invasive methods. We performed 717 lumbar and ventricular infusion tests. A walking disorder plus at least one other symptom of the HAKIM triad as well as the intrathecal infusion test and/or the cerebrospinal tap test (clinical improvement after removal of at least 50 ml of cerebrospinal fluid) were needed to establish the diagnosis of a normal pressure hydrocephalus. 348 patients (52%) fulfilled these criteria.

We compared our own experiences with those of other groups by a systematic review of the recent literature. We therefore searched for English and German papers in medline with “idiopathic normal pressure hydrocephalus AND 1997/09:2005/07 [Publication Date]”. We found 89 papers with a publication date between September 1997 and July 2005. Due to the evidence criteria we selected all original papers in which more than 30 patients were examined with follow-up time of 6 months and more for our analysis.

In our opinion only a subtle preoperative diagnostic leads to good long-term results. In every patient the indication should be proved with clinical, neuroradiological and invasive methods. At the same time we have to stress the importance of long-term follow-ups to avoid late complications.

Keywords: idiopathic normal pressure hydrocephalus; diagnostic pathway; outcome; long-term results

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