

COMPUTER TOMOGRAFIC DIAGNOSTIC ASPECTS OF CEREBRAL ABSCESES

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The cerebral abscess is an encapsulated lesion which evolve in four stages: early cerebritis (1-3 days), late cerebritis (4-9 days), early capsulation (11-13 days), and late capsulations (over 14 days). Perifocal oedema generally develops, and the CT-scan shows different degrees of hypodense adjacent areas of the abscess developed following opened head trauma or after extension of inflammatory foci (sinusitis, mastoiditis, facial furuncles, cranial osteomyelitis, complicated meningoencephalitis etc.). The contrast medium administration is followed by ring-like enhancement, partial ring-like enhancement, ring with diffusion of contrast on delayed scans, ring with less diffusion of contrast especially in centre and ring enhances up to 30 min with no contrast diffusion in centre. These CT-scan aspects before and after contrast medium administration make very difficult the differential diagnostic with malignant tumors, not infrequently the positive diagnostic being established after histopathologic examination. Our study present the positive and differential diagnostic problems of cerebral abscesses examined and treated in Clinical County Hospital Mureş during the period of 1991-1995. The additional iconography of cerebral abscesses is very selective and expressive.