

Brain Trauma And Non-traumatic Neurological Emergencies

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The role of radiologists when dealing with central nervous system-related disorders in emergency setting is expanding in lieu with increased reliance on imaging in providing accurate diagnosis and assisting therapeutic intervention. Establishing a diagnosis quickly and accurately is necessary in an era when patients view emergency department services as a substitute for routine health care. Concerns about legal liability lead some emergency department physicians to order more radiological tests as a means of avoiding allegations of misdiagnosis or delay in diagnosis and this needs to be balanced with the financial constraints of managing health care.

Traumatic and non-traumatic neurological emergencies encountered by the radiologists will be presented, with an emphasis on clinical features and imaging findings that aid in the diagnosis. As radiologists are often the first individuals to consider these entities, familiarity with the clinical features that suggest the diagnosis is of utmost importance. Moreover, acquaintance with the various imaging findings of these diseases will allow early diagnosis and will help limit the severe complications that follow these neurologic emergency conditions if left untreated. Neurological emergencies are complex and as central nervous system tissue heals poorly which ultimately affects function, successful treatment greatly depends on accurate diagnosis.