

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS USING MRI SPIN- LABELING TO MONITOR CSF MOVEMENT

J. Gordon McComb, MD
Professor & Chief Emeritus of Neurosurgery
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Keck School of Medicine
University of Southern California



Can be used anywhere in the central nervous system where there is CSF



HYDROCEPHALUS

- Aqueductal stenosis
- Obstruction at the foramina of Monro
- Outlets of fourth ventricle
- Within the ventricular system (multi-loculated)



HYDROCEPHALUS

Define CSF drainage pathways and physiological factors that may alter drainage routes

- Superior sagittal sinus
- Basal cisterns/nerve sheaths



NORMAL PRESSURE HYDROCEPHALUS

- CSF flow through aqueduct
- ? Candidate for ETV
- ? Better determine which patients would benefit from shunting



THIRD VENTRICULOSTOMY (ETV)

- Preoperative evaluation of CSF flow through aqueduct & basal cisterns
- Success of ETV
- Follow-up of patency of ostium



THIRD VENTRICULOSTOMY (ETV)

 ? Subset of patients with hydrocephalus secondary to repaired open neural tube defects (myelomeningocele) who might be a candidate for ETV



VENTRICULOSTOMIES

- Placed for sub-arachnoid hemorrhage, trauma, tumors
- ? help to determine which patients will require a shunt



LOW OR NEGATIVE PRESSURE HYDROCEPHALUS

 Need to drain CSF at zero or a negative pressure, otherwise ventricles enlarge & patient becomes more symptomatic

Need to decrease size of ventricles

• ? related to change in compliance



CSF LEAKS

 Can be difficult to pinpoint site of leak

Sometimes not sure if CSF leak is present



ARACHNOID CYSTS

- ? why do they enlarge? Ball-valve mechanism
- Widened SAS over tip of temporal lobe, or an arachnoid cyst?
- Determine presence of communication with SAS
- ? large cisterna magna or cyst



ARACHNOID CYSTS

Monitor success of fenestration

 Why, with what appears to be a good fenestration at the time of surgery, one still needs to place a shunt?



TUMOR CYSTS

• ? loculated

COLLOID CYSTS

- ? degree of obstruction
- ? movable



PSEUDOTUMOR CEREBRI (BENIGN INTRACRANIAL HYPERTENSION)

- ? CSF problem
- ? Venous drainage problem
- ? Other factors
- ? Multiple causes with various substrates
- ? Effect of optic nerve fenestration



SHUNTS

- ? Able to visualize CSF flow within shunt
- ? Detect shunt malfunction
- ? Overdrainage



CHIARI I

- Observe CSF flow anterior/posterior to spinal cord
- ? Relate to symptoms headache
- ? Relate to development of syrinx formation
- Post-operative success especially as to syrinx size



CHIARI I

- ? Movement of CSF in syrinx & relation to change in size
- Determine if CSF movement at craniocervical junction subsequently becomes impaired
- Function of syringo-pleural/peritoneal shunt



SPINAL ARACHNOID CYSTS

- Diagnosis
- Success of fenestration



CSF MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO POSITION OF PATIENT

- With, but few exceptions, can only image horizontally
- See what changes occur:
 - Sitting
 - Standing
 - Head down



Thank you

