Technical suggestions

Fig. 2. Conray ventriculogram made with percutaneous needle.

needle may be necessary to reach the ventricle. Penetration of the skull takes about 2 minutes. No shaving is necessary. When prolonged ventricular drainage is desired, a No. 16 spinal needle is used to penetrate the skull; it is then replaced by a No. 18 needle through which the plastic tube is threaded into the ventricle.

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Control of common carotid and innominate artery hemorrhage complicating tracheostomy

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ARTERIAL hemorrhage induced by erosion from a tracheostomy tube is usually fatal. Utley, et al., 1 described a method of controlling such bleeding from the innominate artery. Using their technique we tamponaded a hemorrhage from the right common carotid artery in a patient with a recent stroke syndrome. The surgeon's index finger was inserted through the tracheostomy incision and down along the anterior wall. The pretracheal fascia was dissected forward with the finger reaching into the chest. Upon pulling the finger forward and to the right, bleeding ceased. Tamponade was maintained until arterial repair was completed through a median sternotomy. A review of the article by Utley, et al., is recommended.

References


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