Determination of CSF Shunt Function

To THE EDITOR: Dr. Savoiardo and his co-workers recently described a method for determining cerebrospinal fluid shunt patency with water-soluble contrast medium (Savoiardo M, Solero CL, Passerini A, et al: Determination of cerebrospinal fluid shunt function with water-soluble contrast medium. J Neurosurg 49:398-407, September, 1978). They analyzed their experience with this procedure, referring to only a few of the most recent works on other methods; for instance, the radioisotope determinations described by Di Chiro and Grove in 1966, Frick, et al., in 1974, Harbert, et al., in 1974, and Depresseux and Stevenaert in 1976. Perhaps the readers might be interested to know that this method was already discussed in 1957 and 1959 by Bell, by Schlesinger, et al., in 1959, and by Migliore, et al., in 1962. Also, the procedure was clearly reported in the book, Radionuclide Applications in Neurology and Neurosurgery, and in a 1971 article by Paoletti and Villani.

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References

Pituitary Tumors and Hyperprolactinemia

To THE EDITOR: In an article in the June, 1978, issue (Tindall GT, McLanahan CS, Christy JH: Transsphenoidal microsurgery for pituitary tumors associated with hyperprolactinemia. J Neurosurg 48:849-860, June, 1978), Dr. Tindall, et al., make the fascinatingly laconic statement that according to their protocols, 35 of 37 tumors had been completely removed. Admittedly, however, the prolactin levels of 14 patients remained at what were really pathological levels. The attempts given to explain this phenomenon are, in my opinion, somewhat speculative, if not bold; reports on postoperative computerized tomography (CT) are missing. I would, therefore, ask these colleagues to compare their results with postoperative CT studies. Especially in patients with larger chromophobe pituitary adenomas, it would be important to know whether postoperative CT studies confirm their results. Incidentally, it would be interesting to know whether the tumor capsule was left in place.

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