Extra axial

Extra-axial is a descriptive term to denote lesions external to the brain parenchyma, in contrast to intra-axial which describes lesions within the brain substance.

Radiographic features

Often it is trivially easy to distinguish an intra-axial from an extra-axial mass. In many cases, especially when the mass is large and associated with parenchymal changes, such as oedema, localisation can be more difficult. A number of features are helpful in suggesting that a mass or lesion is extra-axial, including:

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subarachnoid space
    CSF cleft sign
    widening of adjacent subarachnoid space/cistern
    intervening pial arteries or veins
brain parenchyma
    absence of a claw sign
    intervening cortex between mass and white matter
    white matter buckling sign
bone and meninges
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dural tail sign

erosion or invasion/destruction of bone

hyperostosis ¹⁾.

1) https://radiopaedia.org/articles/extra-axial-1

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