

Lumbar puncture complications

Lumbar puncture is a safe and commonly performed procedure, with an overall complication rate of 0.1% to 0.5%.

Post lumbar puncture spinal hematoma

Post lumbar puncture spinal hematoma

Post lumbar puncture headache

Bloody tap.

Dry tap.

Infection.

Dysesthesia.

Post-dural puncture cerebral herniation.

Under some circumstances, lumbar puncture cannot be performed safely (e.g. a severe bleeding tendency). It is regarded as a safe procedure, but post-dural-puncture headache is common.

Lapadula et al. report a case of a young man with epilepsy who, after a lumbar puncture performed for research purposes, presented with an intracerebral hematoma and neurological deficits. To the best of our knowledge, post-tap intraparenchymal hematoma is extremely rare and only 1 case has been reported previously. In consideration, all patients undergoing a lumbar puncture should be informed about this possible rare complication, even in the absence of documented hemorrhagic risk factors ¹⁾.

The Department of Neurosurgery, Hospital Network Antwerp, Belgium published a case of severe bilateral subdural hematomas as a complication of diagnostic lumbar puncture for possible Alzheimer's disease ²⁾.

¹⁾

Lapadula G, Caporlingua F, Caporlingua A, Currà A, Fattapposta F, Missori P. Delayed Intraparenchymal Hematoma Following Diagnostic Lumbar Puncture. Neurologist. 2015 Oct;20(4):70-3. doi: 10.1097/NRL.0000000000000055. PubMed PMID: 26468872.

²⁾

Verslegers L, Schotsmans K, Montagna M, Feyen B, De Jong L, Crols R, Engelborghs S. Severe bilateral

subdural hematomas as a complication of diagnostic lumbar puncture for possible Alzheimer's disease. Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2016 Dec 8;152:95-96. doi: 10.1016/j.clineuro.2016.12.003. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 27978461.

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