

Nocardia brain abscess

The diagnosis is suspected in high-risk patients presenting with soft-tissue abscesses and CNS lesions. CNS involvement occurs in about one-third and includes:

1. cerebral abscess: often multiloculated
2. meningitis
3. ventriculitis in patients with [cerebrospinal fluid shunt](#) ¹⁾
4. epidural spinal cord compression from [vertebral osteomyelitis](#) ²⁾

¹⁾

Byrne E, Brophy BP, Pettett LV. Nocardia Cerebral Abscess: New Concepts in Diagnosis, Management, and Prognosis. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 1979; 42:1038-1045

²⁾

Awad I, Bay JW, Petersen JM. Nocardial Osteomyelitis of the Spine with Epidural Spinal Cord Compression - A Case Report. Neurosurgery. 1984; 15:254-256

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