

Postmeningitic Hydrocephalus

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Definition: Postmeningitic hydrocephalus is a type of secondary hydrocephalus that occurs after an episode of meningitis. It results from inflammation-induced disruption of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) dynamics.

Pathophysiology:

- Inflammatory processes lead to:
- Obstruction of CSF flow (non-communicating hydrocephalus)
- Impaired CSF absorption (communicating hydrocephalus)
- Fibrosis and scarring of arachnoid granulations or CSF pathways are common causes.

Clinical Features:

- Signs of increased intracranial pressure:
- Headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- Altered mental status
- Papilledema
- In infants:
- Macrocephaly
- Bulging fontanelle
- Irritability

Diagnosis:

- **Neuroimaging (CT or MRI):** Dilated ventricles
- **Lumbar puncture:** Elevated opening pressure (performed cautiously)

Management:

[Postmeningitic Hydrocephalus Management](#)

Prognosis:

- Dependent on underlying cause, timing of intervention, and presence of neurological deficits.

Related terms:

- Communicating hydrocephalus
- Non-communicating hydrocephalus
- CSF diversion
- VP shunt
- ETV

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Last update: **2025/05/20 10:17**

