

Symptomatic pneumocephalus

Symptomatic [pneumocephalus](#) is an uncommon [complication](#) of [neurosurgery](#). Reports of symptomatic pneumocephalus in [deep brain stimulation](#) (DBS) surgery are lacking, due to the rarity of this condition.

Albano et al. described 2 patients who experienced clinically significant intraparenchymal pneumocephalus as a consequence of DBS surgery and report their clinical presentations, treatments, and outcomes.

The first patient was a 69-year-old woman with Parkinson disease and the second was a 73-year-old woman with medically refractory [essential tremor](#). Both patients underwent [DBS](#) implantation and developed [focal neurological deficits](#) in the days after surgery. In each case, immediate postoperative head [computed tomography](#) scans showed extra-axial [pneumocephalus](#) which redistributed on subsequent imaging along the dorsal length of the lead. For each patient, a second surgery was carried out to evacuate the [pneumocephalus](#) without lead removal. Clinical symptoms and radiological signs of intracranial air were resolved on the last follow-up.

Symptomatic intraparenchymal pneumocephalus is a rare complication of [DBS](#) surgery which can be treated with surgical evacuation ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Albano L, Rohatgi P, Kashanian A, Bari A, Pouratian N. Symptomatic Pneumocephalus after Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery: Report of 2 Cases. Stereotact Funct Neurosurg. 2020 Feb 4;1-7. doi: 10.1159/000505078. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 32018273.

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