Tension Pneumocephalus

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Pathophysiology

Tension pneumocephalus occurs when air enters the subarachnoid space, leading to increased intracranial pressure (ICP) and potentially serious neurological complications. The pathophysiology behind the development of tension pneumocephalus is not fully understood, but it is suggested that the body reacts to increased ICP through a series of compensatory mechanisms. However, in cases where tension pneumocephalus is not diagnosed and treated, severe neurological outcomes can occur, such as brain herniation and death.

Nursing Implications

Tension pneumocephalus is a critical condition that requires prompt recognition and intervention. Nurses play a crucial role in monitoring patients for signs and symptoms of tension pneumocephalus and taking appropriate actions to prevent and manage it.

References


