NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES PROGRAMME

Interventional procedure overview of lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus

Normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH) is a condition in which a clear, colourless fluid called cerebrospinal fluid (or CSF) accumulates around the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include abnormal gait, urinary incontinence and impaired cognitive function. NPH can be managed by surgical intervention, for example with shunt surgery. The lumbar infusion test may be useful for selecting those patients who are most likely to benefit from this type of surgery. This test involves the insertion of a lumbar needle through the skin of the lower back into the spinal sac, recording the pressure of the CSF as fluid is infused into the spinal sac.

Introduction

This overview has been prepared to assist members of the Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee (IPAC) in making recommendations about the safety and efficacy of an interventional procedure. It is based on a rapid review of the medical literature and specialist opinion. It should not be regarded as a definitive assessment of the procedure.

Date prepared

This overview was prepared in November 2007.

Procedure name

• Lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus

Specialty societies

The following societies were approached to nominate Specialist Advisers.

- Association of British Neurologists
- Society of British Neurological Surgeons

Description

Indications

Normal pressure hydrocephalus is an accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) around the brain and spinal cord, which can cause symptoms such as abnormal gait, urinary incontinence and impaired cognitive function. It usually occurs in the elderly, and is characterised by enlarged cerebral ventricles, but with normal CSF pressure on lumbar puncture.

Current treatment and alternatives

Normal pressure hydrocephalus is usually treated by surgical insertion of a shunt. A shunt is a system that diverts CSF from the brain (or lumbar spinal sac) to the abdominal cavity where it is then absorbed into the circulation. It may relieve gait disturbance and halt the progression of other symptoms, including permanent loss of cognitive function.

It is important to distinguish NPH from other causes of gait disturbance, urinary incontinence and cognitive decline, such as normal cerebral atrophy, where shunting may be harmful. Therefore, diagnosis of NPH based on clinical and radiological signs alone can be problematic and additional testing may be required to determine which patients could benefit from shunting.

This may include a large volume lumbar puncture test (also known as a spinal or CSF tap test). A baseline evaluation of the patient is performed, which may include a mini-mental state examination and walking tests. Under local anaesthetic, a spinal needle is inserted between the lumbar vertebrae into the spinal sac and CSF is collected. Several hours later the evaluation is repeated to assess the effect of removing CSF. Clinical improvement after the lumbar puncture (which may be sustained for several days or weeks) indicates that the patient is likely to benefit from shunting; however, the test is not completely reliable.

What the procedure involves

The lumbar infusion test (also known as the intrathecal infusion test) aims to assess the adequacy of the patient's CSF absorptive ability. The principle underlying the test is that although patients with NPH may have a normal CSF pressure (when this is measured at a simple lumbar puncture), abnormalities in CSF absorption may be revealed with the administration of a 'fluid challenge'. An abnormal and sustained rise in CSF pressure in the face of the challenge is indicative or reduced absorptive capacity (and of NPH).

Under local anaesthetic a needle is inserted through the skin of the lower back and into the lumbar spinal sac. The needle is connected to a pressure monitor and baseline CSF pressure is recorded. Fluid is then infused while CSF pressure is monitored.

Different aspects of the CSF pressure profile during the test may be used to determine which patients are most likely to benefit from shunt surgery. Most IP overview: Lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus Page 2 of 19

commonly, the resistance to CSF outflow (measured in mmHg/ml/min) is calculated based on the pressure gradient (mmHg) in the face of a constant infusion (ml/min). Alternatively, the plateau pressure (measured in mmHg) may be used, which is the pressure at which a balance between CSF absorption and infusion is reached.

Efficacy

A case series of 101 patients assessed the ability of CSF outflow resistance (measured by the lumbar infusion test) to predict shunt response. Of patients with CSF outflow resistance greater than 18 mmHg/ml/min (n = 36), 92% (33/36) had improved NPH scale scores after shunting. Two thirds of patients with CSF outflow resistance below 18 mmHg/ml/min (n = 59) also showed some clinical improvement ¹.

Sixty-six patients from a case series of 83 individuals (80%) met the criteria for shunt surgery (CSF outflow resistance \geq 12 mmHg/ml/min or highly suggestive symptoms). Clinical improvement (based on a consensus between the neurologist and the patient) at least 1 year after shunt surgery was reported in 59% (39/66) of these patients ².

In a case series of 83 patients, only 30 underwent lumbar infusion testing with 19 of these patients meeting the criteria for shunt surgery (CSF outflow resistance \geq 16 mmHg/ml/min). Seventeen of these patients (90%) improved clinically after surgery. Of the 11 patients who did not undergo surgical shunting, eight had an unchanged clinical condition at follow-up (median follow-up of 8 months), with the final three patients lost to follow-up ³.

In a case series of 68 patients who underwent both a lumbar infusion test and a CSF tap test, 47 met the criteria for, and underwent, shunt surgery. Of the 38 patients who improved after surgery, 32 (84%) had a positive lumbar infusion test and 16 (42%) had a positive CSF tap test. (A positive lumbar infusion test result was indicated by a plateau pressure \geq 22 mmHg.) Of the nine patients who did not improve clinically, one had a negative lumbar infusion test and eight had a negative CSF tap test⁴.

A case series of 155 (out of 200) patients, who underwent shunt surgery and had a follow-up assessment at 7 months, reported that patients with a CSF outflow resistance greater than 15 mmHg/ml/min (measured by the intrathecal infusion test) had significantly more favourable clinical outcomes than patients with a lower CSF resistance (p = 0.01)⁵.

Safety

Five of the six published articles reported no adverse events related to the lumbar infusion test. In one study of 200 patients, 19% reported headache (absolute number not reported) after the lumbar infusion test and two patients developed meningismus without signs of inflammation in the CSF ⁶.

Literature review

Rapid review of literature

The medical literature was searched to identify studies and reviews relevant to the lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus. Searches were conducted of the following databases, covering the period from their commencement to 30/10/07: MEDLINE, PREMEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane Library and other databases. Trial registries and the Internet were also searched. No language restriction was applied to the searches (see appendix C for details of search strategy).

The following selection criteria were applied to the abstracts identified during the literature search (Table 1). Where selection criteria could not be determined from the abstracts the full paper was retrieved.

| Characteristic | Criteria |
|-------------------|--|
| Publication type | Clinical studies were included. Emphasis was placed on identifying good quality studies. |
| | Abstracts were excluded where no clinical outcomes were reported, or where the paper was a review, editorial, or a laboratory or animal study. |
| | Conference abstracts were also excluded because of the difficulty of appraising methodology. |
| Patient | Patients with suspected hydrocephalus requiring shunting |
| Intervention/test | Lumbar infusion test |
| Outcome | Articles were retrieved if the abstract contained information relevant to the safety and/or efficacy. |
| Language | Non-English-language articles were excluded unless they were thought to add substantively to the English-language evidence base. |

| Table 1 Inclusion criteria for identification of relev | ant studies |
|--|-------------|
|--|-------------|

List of studies included in the overview

This overview is based on six case series.

Other studies that were considered to be relevant to the procedure but were not included in the main extraction table (Table 2) are listed in appendix A.

Existing reviews on this procedure

One published evidence-based guideline titled 'The value of supplemental prognostic tests for the preoperative assessment of idiopathic normal-pressure hydrocephalus' was identified at the time of the literature search ⁷.

This guideline made the following recommendations.

- A positive response to a spinal tap test is better for predicting a positive shunt response than clinical examination. However, a tap test cannot be used as an exclusionary test because of its low sensitivity.
- Determination of CSF outflow resistance via an infusion test has a higher sensitivity compared with the spinal tap test.
- Prolonged external lumbar drainage has a high sensitivity and positive predictive value.

The guideline concluded that a single standard for the prognostic evaluation of patients with idiopathic NPH is lacking. However, supplemental tests can increase the predictive accuracy of prognosis to greater than 90%. Additional multicentre prospective randomised controlled trials of these supplemental tests are required.

Table 2 Summary of key efficacy and safety findings on lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus

Abbreviations used: CT, computed tomography; GDS, global deterioration scale; MMSE, mini mental state examination; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; mRS, modified Rankin Scale; NPH, normal pressure hydrocephalus

| Study details | Key efficacy findings | Key efficacy findings | | | | | Comments |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Boon A et al. (1997) ¹ | Clinical improvement af | Clinical improvement after shunt surgery | | | | | Study objective: to |
| Dutch normal-pressure hydrocephalus study: prediction of outcome after shunting by resistance to outflow of cerebrospinal fluid. | month, while the lumbar to insertion) | ($n = 95$; five patients died of unrelated causes before the first follow-up examination at 1 month, while the lumbar test could not carried out in one patient due to incorrect needle insertion) | | | | | determine the positive and negative predictive values of CSF outflow resistance obtained using a lumbar |
| nuia. | CSF outflow resistance (mmHg/ml/min) | | Difference be postoperativ | tween baselin e NPH scale s | | reported. | infusion test for the outcome of surgical |
| Multicentre randomised study | | No improvement | Some impro excellent) | vement (mode | erate, marked or | | shunting in patients with NPH. |
| Four centres in the Netherlands | <10 (n = 6) | 3 | 3 | | | | |
| | 10-11.9 (n = 10) | 5 | 5 | | | | All patients in this study |
| Study period: Sept 1990 – July 1995 | 12-14.9 (n = 14) | 2 | 12 | | | | were treated with shunt |
| | 15-17.9 (n = 29) | 10 | 19 | | | | surgery. |
| n = 101 | 18-20.9 (n = 15) | 0 | 15 | | | | NPH scale: combined |
| | 21-23.9 (n = 11) | 3 | 8 | | | | scores of a gait scale and |
| Population and indications: patients under 85 years diagnosed with NPH (based on clinical symptoms and CT scan). Most patients had idiopathic NPH (percentage not reported). Mean age: 73.7 years. Male: 60% | CSF outflow resistance improvement in NPH s (100% of patients impr Two thirds of patients | ≥ 24 (n = 10) 0 10 CSF outflow resistance greater than 18 mmHg/ml/min was the best predictor of improvement in NPH scale score (100% of patients improved). Two thirds of patients with CSF outflow resistance below 18 mmHg/ml/min also showed some improvement in NPH scale score. | | | | | a dementia scale (ranging from 6 to 80) The authors state that most patients had idiopathic NPH (as opposed to secondary |
| Technique: lumbar constant flow infusion test | CSF outflow resistance a 95 patients using improve | | | | | | NPH), but the actual numbers in each group |
| Selection for shunt surgery: all patients were randomly allocated to receive either a low- or medium high-pressure shunt | CSF outflow resistance cut off (mmHg/ml/min) | Sensitivity (%) | Specificity (%) | Likelihood ratio | Positive predictive value (%) | | are not reported. Furthermore, the results are not reported |
| regardless of the results of lumbar | 10 | 96 | 13 | 1.1 | 78 | | separately for each group. |
| constant flow infusion test. | 12 | 89 | 35 | 1.4 | 81 | | |
| | 15 | 72 | 44 | 1.3 | 80 | | The results are not |
| Mean follow-up assessment: 10.9 months | 18 | 46 | 87 | 3.5 | 92 | | reported according to which type of shunt was |
| (± 3 months) | 21 | 25 | 87 | 1.9 | 86 | | used. |
| | 24 | 14 | 100 | ~ | 100 | | |

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| | T | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Conflict of interest: none stated | | |
| | | |

| Study details | Key efficacy findings | Key safety findings | Comments |
|--|--|--|---|
| Delwel EJ et al. (2005) ² | 80% (66/83) of patients met the criteria for shunt | No complications related to the lumbar | Study objective: to investigate |
| The prognostic value of clinical characteristics and parameters of cerebrospinal fluid hydrodynamics in | surgery and were operated on. | infusion test were reported. | which clinical characteristics, CT parameters and parameters of |
| shunting for idiopathic normal pressure hydrocephalus. | Clinical improvement after shunt surgery: 59% (39/66) | | CSF dynamics could predict improvement after surgical shunting. |
| Prospective case series | Improvement was based on a consensus between the neurologist and the patient (or their relatives) at | | This study is from the same centre |
| The Netherlands | least 1 year after shunt surgery on obvious and lasting amelioration of at least one clinical symptom | | as study described above (Boon ef al. 1997) and thus may have enrolled some of the same |
| Study period: not stated | | | patients. |
| n = 83 | | | |
| Population and indications: consecutive patients with symptoms and radiological signs of NPH. | | | |
| Of those who underwent shunt surgery (n = 66): mean age: 69.5 years; male: 65%. | | | |
| Technique: constant flow lumbar infusion test | | | |
| Selection for shunt surgery: CSF outflow resistance of 12 mmHg/ml/min or higher (NB five patients with symptoms highly suggestive of NPH were shunted despite CSF outflow resistance <12 mmHg/ml/min) | | | |
| Follow-up assessment: after at least 1year | | | |
| Conflict of interest: none stated | | | |

| Study details | 5 | | Key efficacy findings | | | Key safety findings | Comments |
|--|------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| Bech-Azeddir | ne R et al. (20 | 05) ³ | 47/83 (57%) patients met cri | teria for shunting and v | vere operated on | No complications related | Study objective: to |
| Intraventricular or lumbar infusion test in adult communicating hydrocephalus? Practical consequences and clinical outcome of shunt operation. | | | (30 of these patients had communicating hydrocephalus and 17 had suspected NPH) | | | to the lumbar infusion test were reported. | investigate the therapeutic consequences of restricting the CSF dynamic |
| Prospective c Denmark | ase series | | Clinical improvement after shunt surgery All patients: 83% (39/47) Patients with NPH: 76% (13/17) Patients with communicating hydrocephalus (1 patient died after shunt surgery): 90% (26/29) | | | | evaluation to a lumbar infusion test, as opposed t the formerly applied intraventricular infusion assessment in patients wit communicating |
| Study period: n = 83 | 1998–2000 | | Improvement was based on a total score of at least 2 points where +1 was given for each degree of improvement and –1 for each degree of reduction in ordinal scales of gait, incontinence, MMSE and GDS. | | | | hydrocephalus. |
| and radiologic | cal signs of idi | patients with symptoms opathic NPH (n = 33) or | Met criteria for, and Clinical had, shunt surgery improvement | | | | |
| secondary co | mmunicating I | nydrocephalus (n = 50). | All patients (n = 83) | 57% (47/83) | 83% (39/47) | | |
| Mean age | NPH 66 | Communicating hydrocephalus 56 | Lumbar infusion test only (n = 30) | 63% (19/30) | 90% (17/19) | | |
| Male | 42% | 52% | Lumbar + intraventricular test (n = 4) | 0 | N/A | | |
| Technique: lumbar infusion test Selection for shunt surgery: CSF outflow resistance of 16 mmHg/ml/min or higher. Patients with CSF outflow resistance of 12–16 mmHg/ml/min went on to have an | | Intraventricular infusion test only (n = 16; all patients with communicating hydrocephalus) | 69% (11/16) | 90% (9/10) | | | |
| intraventricular infusion test Patients who had lu | | | Patients who had lumbar i | | | | |
| Follow-up assessment: 1–3 months and then after at least 1 year postoperatively in all patients | | | 19 (63%) patients met th operated on, of whom 17 11 patients did not meet had an unchanged clinic. | ' (90%) improved clinic the criteria for shunting | ally g, of whom eight | | |
| Conflict of inte | erest: none sta | ated | months) with the final thr | | | | |

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Abbreviations used: CT, computed tomography; GDS, global deterioration scale; MMSE, mini mental state examination; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; mRS, modified Rankin Scale; NPH, normal pressure hydrocephalus

| Study details | Key efficacy findings | | | Key safety findings | Comments |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|--|---|
| Kahlon B et al. (2002) ⁴ Comparison between the lumbar infusion and CSF tap test to predict outcome after shunt | 69% (47/68) patients met the criteria for shunt surgery and were operated on. Clinical improvement at 6-month follow-up (n = 68) | | | There were no complications or side effects related to the | Study objective: to compare the lumbar infusion test and the CSF tap test for |
| surgery in suspected normal pressure hydrocephalus. Prospective case series | | Objective improvement (from baseline in at least two out of four tests) | Self-reported improvement | lumbar infusion test or the CSF tap test. | predicting the outcome of shunt surgery in patients with suspected NPH. |
| Sweden | Patients not operated on (n = 21) | 24% (5/21) | 19% (4/21) | | |
| Study period: 1996–2000 | Positive lumbar infusion test (n = 40) | 80% (32/40) | 98% (39/40) | | |
| n = 68 | Positive CSF tap test (n = 17) | 94% (16/17) | 94% (16/17) | | |
| | Test result combinations | | | | |
| Population and indications: consecutive patients with suspected NPH. | Lumbar test positive / CSF test negative (n = 30) | 73% (22/30) | 97% (29/30) | | |
| Mean age: 72 years. Male: 43% | Lumbar test negative / CSF test positive (n = 7) | 86% (6/7) | 86% (6/7) | | |
| Technique: constant-rate lumbar infusion test followed immediately by CSF tap test | Lumbar test positive / CSF test positive (n = 10) | 100% (10/10) | 100% (10/10) | | |
| Selection for shunt surgery: either a positive lumbar infusion test (plateau pressure | Tests agreed (either both positi | ive or both negative) in | 31 patients (45%) | | |
| \geq 22 mmHg) (n = 36) or a positive CSF tap test (clinical improvement after test) (n = 19). | Of the 38 patients with objective improvement in symptoms after shunt surgery: | | | | |
| Mean follow-up assessment: 6 months | 84% had a positive lumbar 42% had a positive tap test Of the nine patients with no obj surgery: | | | | |
| Conflict of interest: none stated | one had a negative lumbar eight had a negative tap tes | | | | |

Abbreviations used: CT, computed tomography; GDS, global deterioration scale; MMSE, mini mental state examination; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; mRS, modified Rankin Scale; NPH, normal pressure hydrocephalus

| Study details | Key efficacy findings | Key safety findings | Comments |
|--|---|---|--|
| Meier U et al. (2004) ⁵ Predictors of outcome in patients with normal-pressure hydrocephalus. | Clinical improvement after shunt surgery (from 155 patients who had a 7-month follow-up assessment) | No complications related to the lumbar infusion test were reported. | Study objective: not stated. All patients in this study were treated with shunt surgery. |
| Prospective case series | Clinical improvement was assessed by the Black grading scale (ranging from excellent, same level activity as prior to illness, to poor, no change or | | |
| Germany | worsened condition) | | |
| Study period: May 1982–Jan 1997 | Poor recovery rate: 19.4%Fair recovery rate: 41.3% | | |
| n = 200 | Excellent/good recovery rate: 39.4% (absolute numbers not available) Patients with a CSF outflow resistance of greater | | |
| Population and indications: patients with proven NPH undergoing shunt surgery. Mean age: 52 years. Male: 61% | than 15 mmHg/ml/min (measured by intrathecal infusion test) had significantly more favourable clinical outcomes than patients with a lower CSF resistance (p = 0.01) | | |
| Technique: computer-assisted constant flow intrathecal infusion test (measuring CSF resistance outflow) and CSF tap test. | CSF tap test results were not significant predictors of clinical outcome after shunt surgery | | |
| Patients were proven to have NPH according to pathologically high CSF resistance during an infusion test. All patients in this series underwent shunt surgery. | | | |
| Mean follow-up assessment: 7-months in 78% (155/200) of patients | | | |
| Conflict of interest: none stated | | | |

Abbreviations used: CT, computed tomography; GDS, global deterioration scale; MMSE, mini mental state examination; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; mRS, modified Rankin Scale; NPH, normal pressure hydrocephalus

| Study details | Key efficacy findings | Key safety findings | Comments |
|---|---|--|--|
| Study detailsMeier U et al. (2001) 6The importance of the intrathecal infusion test in the diagnostic of normal-pressure hydrocephalus.Prospective case seriesGermanyStudy period: May 1982 – Jan 1997n = 200Population and indications: patients with suspected NPH.Mean age: 52 years. Male: 61%Technique: computer-aided intrathecal infusion testSelection for shunt surgery: pathologically increased CSF resistance (n = 107)Follow-up assessment: noneConflict of interest: none stated | Key efficacy findings Results of intrathecal infusion test 54% (107/200) of patients had high CSF resistance and 102 (51%) went on to have shunt surgery One patient died before the operation and four refused the procedure and were lost to follow-up 47% (93/200) patients had normal CSF resistance during the infusion test. Therefore, they were diagnosed with cerebral atrophy and did not undergo shunt surgery. No outcomes after shunt surgery were reported | Key safety findings 19% of 107 patients (absolute numbers not available) reported headache after the procedure and two patients developed meningismus without signs of an inflammation in the CSF. | Comments Study objective: to develop a diagnostic system to identify patients who derive the most benefit from shunt surgery and those who have already developed brain atrophy. This study is likely to include some of the same patients as those reported in the study described previously (Meier et al (2004)). This study did not follow-up patients after shunt surgery. It was included in this table because of its evidence on safety. |

Validity and generalisability of the studies

- Studies were selected for inclusion in this overview if:
 - they were clinically relevant and if they included patients with NPH who underwent shunt surgery and whose clinical outcome was assessed after shunting, or if they included evidence on safety,
 - the results of the lumbar infusion test (with or without subsequent tests) were used to either select patients for shunt surgery or to assess the relationship between the test results and shunt response and the test was conducted before shunt surgery (studies were not included if the test was used to assess CSF resistance after shunting, and
 - they were published from 1980 onwards
- Most of the studies used measurements of CSF outflow resistance to select patients appropriate for shunt surgery (for example, Boon et al. 1997, Meier et al. 2001 and 2004, Delwel et al. 2005, Bech-Azeddine et al. 2005).
 However, one study used measurements of CSF plateau pressure to select patients for shunt surgery (Kahlon et al 2002).
- Several studies used different cut-offs points of CSF outflow resistance for selection of patients for shunt sugery

Specialist advisers' opinions

Specialist advice was sought from consultants who have been nominated or ratified by their Specialist Society or Royal College. The advice received is their individual opinion and does not represent the view of the society

Mr Richard Ashpole (Association of British Neurologists), Carl Hardwidge, Alistair Jenkins (Society of British Neurosurgeons).

- All Specialist Advisers stated that this procedure was established practice and no longer new.
- Theoretical adverse events included: infection, post-procedure headache, bleeding, localised pain and nerve root damage.
- One Specialist Adviser stated that there were no uncertainties about the safety of this procedure as the risks are the same as those for normal lumbar puncture

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- The key efficacy outcomes of the procedure are diagnosis of NPH and to test the functioning of CSF diversionary procedures.
- There is uncertainty about the diagnostic significance of different measures of CSF absorption (such as CSF outflow resistance).
- The interpretation and significance of test results (in conjunction with other clinical indicators) is of more uncertainty than the way the test is conducted.

Issues for consideration by IPAC

• Consider changing title to 'lumbar infusion test for investigating/diagnosing normal pressure hydrocephalus'.

References

- Boon AJ, Tans JT, Delwel EJ et al. (1997) Dutch normal-pressure hydrocephalus study: prediction of outcome after shunting by resistance to outflow of cerebrospinal fluid. Journal of Neurosurgery 87: 687-93.
- Delwel EJ, de Jong DA, and Avezaat CJ. (2005) The prognostic value of clinical characteristics and parameters of cerebrospinal fluid hydrodynamics in shunting for idiopathic normal pressure hydrocephalus.[erratum appears in Acta Neurochir (Wien). 2006 Jan;148(1):99-100]. Acta Neurochirurgica 147: 1037-42.
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- 5. Meier U, Konig A, and Miethke C. (2004) Predictors of outcome in patients with normal-pressure hydrocephalus. European Neurology 51: 59-67.
- Meier U and Bartels P. (2001) The importance of the intrathecal infusion test in the diagnostic of normal-pressure hydrocephalus. European Neurology 46: 178-86.
- Marmarou A, Bergsneider M, Klinge P et al. (2005) The value of supplemental prognostic tests for the preoperative assessment of idiopathic normal-pressure hydrocephalus. [Review] [25 refs]. Neurosurgery 57: S17-28.

Appendix A: Additional papers on lumbar infusion test

for the investigation of normal pressure

hydrocephalus not included in summary table 2

The following table outlines studies considered potentially relevant to the overview not included in the main data extraction table (table 2). It is by no means an exhaustive list of potentially relevant studies.

| Article title | Number of patients/ follow-up | Direction of conclusions | Reasons for non- inclusion in Table 2 |
|--|--|---|--|
| Bech-Azeddine R, Waldemar G, Knudsen GM et al. (2001) Idiopathic normal-pressure hydrocephalus: evaluation and findings in a multidisciplinary memory clinic. European Journal of Neurology 8: 601–11. | n = 71 Follow-up: not stated | Results were not reported patients who underwent th and patients who underwe | ne lumbar infusion test |
| Boon AJ, Tans JT, Delwel EJ et al. (1998) Does CSF outflow resistance predict the response to shunting in patients with normal pressure hydrocephalus? Acta Neurochirurgica Supplement 71: 331–3. | n = 101 Follow-up: 12 months | The best predictor of shunting response was a CSF outflow resistance of 18 mmHg/ml/min or higher. Two thirds of patients under 18 years also improved after shunting. | Likely to be the same patients as those reported in Boon et al. 1997 in Table 2. |
| Kahlon B, Sundbarg G, Rehncrona S. (2005) Lumbar infusion test in normal pressure hydrocephalus. Acta Neurologica Scandinavica 111: 379–84. | n = 55 | CSF outflow resistance from the lumbar infusion test has no advantage over steady-state plateau pressure for selecting patients for surgery. | Likely to be the same patients as those reported in Kahlon et al. 2002 in Table 2. |
| Kahlon B, Sjunnesson J, Rehncrona S. (2007) Long-term outcome in patients with suspected normal pressure hydrocephalus. Neurosurgery 60: 327–32. | n = 75 Mean follow-up: 5.5 years | Patients who had shunt surgery (selected according to results of the lumbar infusion test or CSF tap test) benefited from surgery for at least 5 years. | Likely to be the same patients as those reported in Kahlon et al. 2002 in Table 2. |
| Maksymowicz W, Czosnyka M, Koszewski W et al. (1989) The role of cerebrospinal compensatory parameters in the estimation of functioning of implanted shunt system in patients with communicating hydrocephalus (preliminary report). Acta Neurochirurgica 101: 112–16. | n = 12 (All patients had lumbar infusion test and shunt surgery.) | 3/12 patients had no clinical improvement (CSF dynamics measured by the infusion test were normal). 9/12 patients had clinical improvement (various CSF dynamics measured by the infusion test were highlighted as factors responsible for improvement after shunting). | Larger or more recent studies included in Table 2. |

| Article title | Number of patients/ follow-up | Direction of conclusions | Reasons for non- inclusion in Table 2 |
|--|--|--|---|
| Munch TN. (2007) Evaluation of the lumbar and ventricular infusion test in the diagnostic strategy of pediatric hydrocephalus and the therapeutic implications. Child's Nervous System 23: 67–71. | n = 40 children with hydrocephalus | Results were not reported separately for patients who had a lumbar infusion test and those who had an intraventricular infusion test | |
| Savolainen S, Hurskainen H, Paljarvi L et al. (2002) Five-year outcome of normal pressure hydrocephalus with or without a shunt: predictive value of the clinical signs, neuropsychological evaluation and infusion test. Acta Neurochirurgica 144: 515–23. | n = 51 (Patients had various tests including a lumbar infusion test. Results of the intracranial test were used to select patients for shunt surgery.) | The infusion test was of no value in diagnosing NPH. | The results of the lumbar infusion test were not used to select patients for shunt surgery or reported in any detail. |
| Sorteberg A, Eide PK, Fremming AD. (2004) A prospective study on the clinical effect of surgical treatment of normal pressure hydrocephalus: the value of hydrodynamic evaluation. British Journal of Neurosurgery 18: 149– 57. | n = 17 (All patients underwent shunt surgery.) Follow-up: 6 months | CSF outflow resistance (measured by the lumbar infusion test) was positively correlated with the clinical state of the patients before shunting. After surgery, the CSF outflow resistance correlated well with improvements in gait and NPH score. | Larger or more recent studies included in Table 2. |

Appendix B: Related published NICE guidance for lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus

| Guidance programme | Recommendation |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Interventional procedures | None applicable |
| Technology appraisals | None applicable |
| Clinical guidelines | None applicable |
| Public health | None applicable |

Appendix C: Literature search for lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus

| IP 680 Lumbar infusion test for the investigation of normal pressure hydrocephalus | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Database | Date searched | Version searched |
| Cochrane Library | 31/10/2007 | Issue 4, 2007 |
| CRD databases (DARE & HTA) | 31/10/2007 | Issue 4, 2007 |
| EMBASE | 31/10/2007 | 1980 to 2007 Week 43 |
| MEDLINE | 31/10/2007 | 1950 to October Week 3 2007 |
| PREMEDLINE | 31/10/2007 | October 30, 2007 |
| CINAHL | 31/10/2007 | 1982 to October Week 4 2007 |
| British Library Inside Conferences | 31/10/2007 | - |
| NRR | 31/10/2007 | Issue 4, 2007 |
| Controlled Trials Registry | 31/10/2007 | - |

The following search strategy was used to identify papers in MEDLINE. A similar strategy was used to identify papers in other databases.

| 1 | (infusion\$ adj3 test\$).tw. | |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 2 | (lumbar\$ adj3 infusion\$).tw. | |
| 3 | 1 or 2 | |
| 4 | exp Hydrocephalus/ | |
| 5 | hydrocephal\$.tw. | |
| 6 | exp Cerebrospinal Fluid/ | |
| 7 | (cerebrospinal\$ adj3 fluid\$).tw. | |
| 8 | exp Cerebrospinal Fluid Pressure/ | |
| 9 | or/4-8 | |
| 10 | 3 and 9 | |