Correspondence

Meningitis and encephalitis in infants and children

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To the Editor

With reference to the interesting paper by Jan,[1] I disagree with him in his recommendation that every child at risk of tuberculous meningitis (TBM) requires a tuberculin skin test (TST) for early detection. This is based on the observation that TST positivity is low in TBM, irrespective of the nutritional status of the host, as there is a negative correlation between the stage of TBM and the size of tuberculin reaction.[2] Accordingly, the recently published British Infection Society guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis of the central nervous system in adults and children did not consider TST as a major tool in the diagnostic algorithm of TBM. Instead, it clearly stressed that the diagnosis of TBM is best made with lumbar puncture and examination of the cerebrospinal fluid.[3]

Reply from the Author

No reply was received from the Author.

References

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Related Articles

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