REVIEW OF CLINICAL PRESENTATION AND RADIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING BRAIN CT IN KNH

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Degree Programme: MASTER OF MEDICINE IN DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY [1]
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Objectives

To determine the clinical presentation and the radiological pattern of brain pathology as seen on brain CT scan examinations.

Study design

Retrospective descriptive study.

Setting of study

Kenyatta National Hospital

Subjects studied

1221 head CT findings were evaluated during the study period from January 2008 to June 2008.

Results of the study

The male to female ratio was 1.1:1. The mean age was 33.4 years. Brain pathology was identified in 85% of the CT scans done. Pathologies encountered included trauma 21.4%, neoplasms 18.0%, inflammatory conditions 16.8%, and brain atrophy 10.2%. Clinical findings in patients with a normal CT scan of the head included - seizures 33.3%, headache 26.8% and meningitis 20.2%. Clinical presentation encountered included injury related to trauma 19.7%, lateralizing signs 11.9%, headache and convulsions/seizures 10%.
Conclusion

Majority of the patients undergoing a brain CT scan fall in the 21-40 years age group of male gender. Trauma related diagnosis and neoplasms are the commonest radiological diagnosis in patients undergoing head CT in KNH, while history related to trauma and lateralizing signs are the leading causes of clinical presentation. In patients with a normal CT scan of the head, approximately half of them presented with seizures and about a third presented with headaches.

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