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Elements in Emergency Neurosurgery
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University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

EMERGENCY SCENARIOS IN FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY

James Manfield
John Radcliffe Hospital
Nicolas Park
Royal Preston Hospital

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009439428

DOI: 10.1017/9781009439411

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009439411

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-43942-8 Paperback
ISSN 2755-0656 (online)
ISSN 2755-0648 (print)

Emergency Scenarios in Functional Neurosurgery

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009439411
First published online: January 2025

James Manfield
John Radcliffe Hospital

Nicolas Park
Royal Preston Hospital

Author for correspondence: James Manfield, jmanfield@nhs.net

Abstract: Functional Neurosurgery modifies CNS circuits to effect change within or outside the nervous system. Most commonly, functional procedures are performed to treat movement disorders, chronic pain, spasticity and epilepsy. Whilst regarded as a predominantly elective subspecialty, emergent scenarios are encountered. The combination of their relative rarity coupled with the niche nature of the subspecialty may engender anxiety amongst neurosurgery trainees. This Element overviews some more common emergency scenarios which may be encountered comprising suspected malfunction of intrathecal drug delivery devices, deep brain and spinal cord stimulators. Status trigeminus and an approach to investigations with a neuromodulation device in situ are also covered.

Keywords: Functional Neurosurgery emergencies, intrathecal pump malfunction, deep brain stimulation emergencies, acute trigeminal neuralgia, neuromodulation device imaging

ISBNs: 9781009439428 (PB), 9781009439411 (OC)
ISSNs: 2755-0656 (online), 2755-0648 (print)

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