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EMERGENCY SCENARIOS IN FUNCTIONAL NEUROSURGERY

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Emergency Scenarios in Functional Neurosurgery

Elements in Emergency Neurosurgery

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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

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