

## Brain Infections

### Bacterial Infections

Bacterial infection of the brain is called **cerebritis**. As cerebritis continues, the infection may coalesce to form a **brain abscess** (Figure 13). Cerebritis is treated with antibiotics alone. Brain abscesses frequently require surgery for drainage or resection, followed by antibiotics.

Another form of bacterial infection of the brain is **subdural empyema**. This is bacterial infection within the subdural space. Subdural empyema is rare, and most commonly occurs secondary to severe sinusitis. It is usually a neurosurgical emergency.

Bacterial infection within the CSF compartment is called **bacterial meningitis** (not all meningitis is bacterial). This is treated with antibiotics. Occasionally bacterial meningitis results in communicating hydrocephalus.

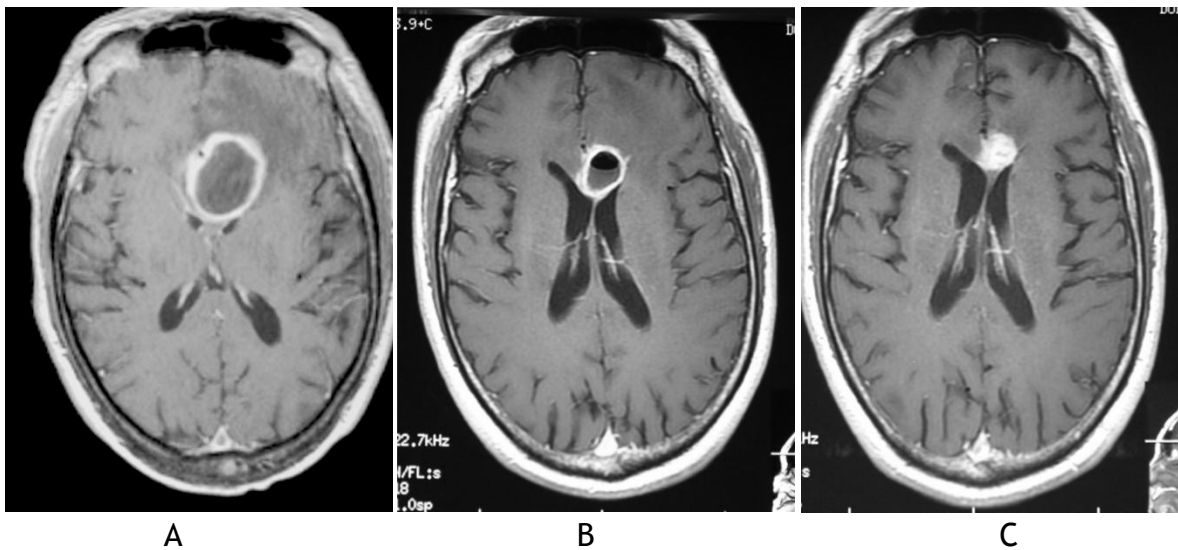


Figure 13: Brain Abscess.

- A. MRI scan showing initial presentation of brain abscess.
- B. MRI scan showing brain abscess after stereotactic aspiration.
- C. MRI scan showing resolving brain abscess (cerebritis) following aspiration and antibiotics.