EVALUATION OF COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY EXAMS OF SKULL PERFORMED IN A HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ONCOLOGICAL.

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BACKGROUND: In an oncological hospital the emergencies in neuroradiology are very frequently. The commonly observed indications in a general hospital are augment with cancer neurological complications with systemic involvement. The main indications includes vascular disorders, traumatic brain injury, infectious processes and brain metastases research. Skull study using computed tomography (CT) plays an important role in acute situations evaluation, once this method is more available, lower cost and enhanced image acquisition speed when compared to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Thus, exams in emergency services are useful to recognize conditions that respond treatment well when early diagnosed. HYPOTHESIS: Evaluate CT indication and results performed in a cancer hospital emergency. METHODS: Retrospective study, single-center, reviewing medical records and image reports. Were evaluate 252 skull CT exams requested in emergency from January to April 2015. RESULTS: The patients mean age was 57,9 years and 56,2% were female. The patients majority had a known primary tumor (92,0%). The indications were: research focal neurological sign/altered consciousness level (15,8%), traumatic brain injury (TBI) (13,8%), headache (12,3%), metastasis research (11,1%), stroke (7,9%), intracranial hemorrhage (6,7%) and convulsion (5,9%). Considering, 19,8% had other diverse indications and 5,9% was not found described indications in medical records. From the tests performed, 26,2% were positive, with 22,6% corresponding to clinical hypothesis and 3,6% with other unrelated findings. Indications that had higher positive frequency findings on CT were metastasis research (32,1%) and research focal neurological sign/altered level of consciousness (24,5%), on the other hand the signs with negative results were headache (87,2%) and TBI (85,8%). In 24.6% skull CTs were followed by Magnetic Resonance indication, of those 56,5% had no CT findings. In conclusion, the skull CT indications and results study can evaluate the situations in which diagnostic method has more or less probability to have a positive result and so rationalize this tool use in the Emergency Room.