Suspiccion for bacterial meningitis

Immunocompromise, history of CNS disease, new onset seizure, papilledema, altered consciousness, or focal neurologic deficit; or delay in performance of diagnostic lumbar puncture

Blood cultures and lumbar puncture STAT (measure opening pressure)

Dexamethasone + empiric antimicrobial therapy

CSF findings c/w bacterial meningitis

Positive CSF Gram's stain

Blood cultures STAT

Dexamethasone + empiric antimicrobial therapy

Negative CT scan of the head

Perform lumbar puncture (measure opening pressure)

Dexamethasone + empiric antimicrobial therapy

Dexamethasone + targeted antimicrobial therapy

Dr. Allan R. Tunkel, et al, Practical Guidelines for Bacterial Meningitis

Clinical Infectious Diseases
2004: 39 (1 November) 1267

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