

# Approach to an Intracranial Mass in Patients With HIV

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### Abstract

Purpose of Review Space-occupying lesions represent a diagnostic challenge among people with the human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). To determine the best diagnostic approach to the wide array of possible etiologies and provide a thorough interpretation of neuroimaging in order to narrow a hierarchical differential diagnosis among these patients. Given that there is no pathognomonic neuroimaging pattern in this clinical setting, we searched results from brain biopsies to best determine the etiology of commonly found lesions. Recent Findings Multimodal brain MRI and MRI spectroscopy (MRS) often provide the most valuable information in the study of focal masses among people with HIV/AIDS. Brain biopsy appears safe and provides high diagnostic yields in these patients. Among patients with HIV/AIDS who present with space-occupying intracranial lesions, brain MRI and MRS are useful tests. However, in cases of diagnostic uncertainty, brain biopsy is a safe procedure and should be performed. The role of metabolic studies like (201)Th-SPECT or PET is useful in the detection of primary central nervous system lymphoma.

### Palabras clave

**Palabras clave de autor:** [Focal brain lesion](#); [Brain abscess](#); [Toxoplasma encephalitis](#); [HIV](#); [Brain MRI](#); [MR spectroscopy](#); [Opportunistic infections](#); [SPECT](#)

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