

AANP Slide Session 1961

CASE 7

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The section is from the cerebellum from a newborn, premature infant who died at the age of 17 days, following birth by cesarean section.

The early phases of the mother's pregnancy were without incident. At approximately the 26th week, she was found to have epidermoid carcinoma of the cervix. A course of radium therapy was applied by interstitial and contracervical techniques, and in addition, approximately 2000 roentgens of deep 2 voltage (Cobalt 60) radiation therapy was applied to the lower abdomen. The death of the infant was anticipated but did not occur. Accordingly, she was delivered by cesarean section, the baby being vigorous and viable at birth. However, gradual, progressive anemia occurred, and the infant died in a state of profound anemia and thrombocytopenia on the 17th day. General autopsy findings revealed an atrophy of the bone marrow and secondary changes, presumably resulting from the anemia. The brain in general shows extensive swelling and many punctate hemorrhages with virtual hemorrhagic necrosis of the cerebellum. The microscopic examination of the cerebral cortex unearthed extreme edema of the white matter and swelling of the glia with disappearance of most of the paraventricular cells.