

CASE 4

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The patient, an 18-years-old female, was said to have been plagued by severe headaches for "several months". One evening she complained of her usual headache and retired, having taken "a couple of aspirins". She was found dead in bed next morning.

Pathological findings: These were limited to the brain, which, on external examination, disclosed slight flattening of the gyri, sharp tentorial impression marks on the undersurfaces of both unci, moderate herniation of the right cerebellar tonsil, slight widening of the pons, and moderate and assymetric enlargement of the medulla, which felt quite firm. Both cerebellar hemispheres were of equal size. Within the tissues of the latero-anterior portion of the right cerebellar hemisphere, a cyst which was level with the cerebellar surface was seen.

Coronal sectioning of the cerebellum disclosed a tumor which was composed of a moderately firm to rubbery, pale tan or light gray tissue traversed by numerous smooth-walled cysts which ranged from 0.5 to 2.0 cm. in diameter and contained grayish green mucoid material. The growth has replaced most of the hemisphere, having spared its medial-dorsal portion. It partly obliterated and displaced the IV ventricle, and also extended via all three cerebellar peduncles to the brainstem, parts of which, especially the upper medulla, were extensively replaced by the tumor. Finally, there was cortical atrophy of the remaining portions of the right cerebellar hemisphere and mild dilatation of the lateral and IIIrd ventricles.

The submitted slides, one stained with H & E, the other unstained, are taken from the central portion of the tumor within the right cerebellar hemisphere.