

slides 2A and 2B
 ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY
 Washington 25, D. C.

CASE FOR PRESENTATION AT BOSTON SLIDE SESSION
 June 1960

The section is from the cerebellum. Diagnoses in this case included platybasia, probable Arnold-Chiari malformation, and secondary hydrocephalus.

The patient was a 37-year-old. He was admitted to hospital for evaluation of episodic vertigo associated with head pain which first appeared a month earlier. The first indication of trouble occurred while he was taking a shower; it seemed that the room suddenly revolved and he fell to the floor. He was up again in a few minutes. Two weeks later he had another episode of vertigo, and during the attack he had blurred vision. Within two months, attacks occurred almost daily and lasted as long as 4 to 6 minutes. Between attacks he felt "fine." He denied vomiting. There was definite facial asymmetry. "Cerebellar" signs were not elicited. Lumbar tap revealed an opening CSF pressure of 380 to 390 mm. H₂O. Ventriculogram revealed symmetrical dilatation of both lateral ventricles and of the IIIrd ventricle and aqueduct. On suboccipital craniectomy the arch of the first cervical vertebrae was removed. No abnormality was found in the posterior cranial fossa. The patient was returned to the ward in good condition. A few hours later he suddenly died.

There was no family history which seemed pertinent. The brain weighed 2400 gm. The cerebrum showed nothing beyond ventricular dilatation. Nor was anything abnormal remarked about the cerebellum grossly. There was "a moderate degree of platybasia of the shallow posterior fossa as well as a prominent odontoid process. This may possibly have caused a pressure on the brain stem."

References to the pathological condition presented are the following:

1. Duncan, D., and Snodgrass, S.: Diffuse hypertrophy of cerebellar cortex (myelinated neurocytoma). Arch. Neurol. & Psychiat. 50:677, 1943.
2. Oppenheimer, D.: A benign "tumour" of the cerebellum. Report on two cases of diffuse hypertrophy of the cerebellar cortex. J. Neurol., Neurosurg., & Psychiatr. 18:199, 1955.
3. Russell, D., and Rubinstein, L. J.: Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System, Edw. Arnold Ltd., London, 1959, p. 168.
4. Hallervorden, J.: Ueber die Hamartome (Ganglioneurome) des Kleinhirns. Deutsche Ztschr. f. Nervenheilk. 179:531, 1959 (latest compilation; 21 cases).

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