

CASE 5

Submitted by: Dr. Richard Lindenberg, Director of Neuropathology and Legal Medicine, State of Maryland Department of Mental Hygiene.

The patient, a three month old baby, was dead on arrival at the hospital. The mother reported that at night she had been upset due to an argument with her husband. Since the baby had been crying continuously she became so nervous that she slapped the baby and made him fall off the bed. The next morning she noticed that the baby was not moving and took him to the hospital.

At autopsy there was a thick fresh hematoma in the galea of the convexity extending from the occipital to the frontal region. Both parietal bones were fractured. Over the right cerebral hemisphere there was a subdural accumulation of 2 cc. of fresh blood. Over the left parietal and posterior temporal lobe there was dark sub-arachnoid hemorrhage. On coronal sections the cerebrum showed numerous cysts; of the white matter which contained no blood. These cysts were located in both first frontal convolutions extending from the frontal pole to the anterior central convolution, in several convolutions of both orbital lobes, and in both anterior temporal poles extending posteriorly into the first and second temporal convolutions on the right. The attached photograph depicts some of these cysts at the level of the tuber cinereum. The cause of death was aspiration of vomitus due to craniocerebral injury. The histologic examination of the galeal hemorrhage and of the skull fracture showed an age of not older than 24 hours and was, therefore, consistent with the report given by the mother.

Question: What is the nature of the cysts?