

CASE 5

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A 15 month old black girl admitted because of inability to walk after having just learned to do so. Development normal to onset of above symptom. Examination revealed a thin child with no active motion of legs. Neurological examination disclosed spasticity at the hips, flexion and adduction of thighs, increased patellar reflexes, absent Achilles and hypotonia of leg muscles. Hypochromic anemia discovered and x-rays revealed saucerization of posterior aspect of T 10-12 and widening of paraspinous line on right at T 11-12. Myelogram showed complete block at T 12-L 1. Cerebrospinal fluid examination showed no white blood cells, 20 red blood cells per high power field, chlorides 726, protein 620. Laminectomy from T 8 to L 1 with removal of intraspinous portion of tumor thought to be arising from extraspinal site. Skull films showed harlequin appearance of sphenoid ridge suggesting neurofibromatosis. Second operation two weeks after first (thoracotomy) for removal of tumor from left postero-lateral pleural cavity. Tumor found around aorta, in intervertebral foramina and possibly below diaphragm. Post operatively given 3000r dose of x-ray. Chief problem two months post operatively has been scoliosis and spasticity of left lower extremity. Right-sided symptoms have disappeared.