

CASE 7

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History: This 3-year-old child developed clinical symptoms and signs of a mass in the posterior fossa two months prior to death. Ventriculographic examinations revealed changes consistent with a space-occupying lesion extending into the 4th ventricle. An occipital craniotomy disclosed a large tumor in the midline of the cerebellum extending to the 4th ventricle. It was not possible to remove the tumor entirely and a biopsy was done. The patient died about 1-1/2 months after the operation.

Gross Findings on the Brain: There was a massive tumor in the midline of the cerebellum which had protruded into and distended the 4th ventricle. The tumor was grayish-white, firm and had many scattered dark gray or black patches or spots. The tumor had also invaded diffusely the cerebellar leptomeninges, often distending the interfolial sulci. The cerebellar cortex in many areas was invaded and destroyed by the neoplasm, but the folial white matter appeared relatively preserved. The tumor also massively filled the basal cistern and cisterna ambiens. The leptomeninges over the cerebrum and brain stem, practically everywhere, except for those over the anterior portions of the frontal lobes, were diffusely infiltrated by the neoplastic tissue. The tumor frequently extended into the sulci distending them. Other findings of note were changes related to obstruction of the 4th ventricle and increased intracranial pressure.

General Organs: Not remarkable.

Histological Diagnosis: "Pigmented medulloblastoma" or
"Melanotic progonoma"

Points of Discussion:

1. Relationship between this tumor and "melanotic progonoma" in other parts of the body.
2. Nosology of this tumor.