

Case #7

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This six-month old female infant was first seen at the age of three months because of an enlarged head. An arteriogram revealed evidence of hydrocephalus. The posterior inferior cerebellar artery was normal at this time. A ventriculo-peritoneal shunt was performed. One month later, she was readmitted to this hospital for shunt revision. Upon opening the abdomen, the drainage fluid was found to be turbid. The culture of this fluid was positive for Streptococci. The child was treated with antibiotics and a new shunt was inserted into the left internal jugular vein. She failed to respond and expired on the 14th post-operative day.

At autopsy the significant findings were limited to the brain. This showed a midline tumor compressing the cerebellum, brain stem, and basal ganglia. The pineal gland could not be located. The position of the tumor indicates that it arose in or near this region. There was marked dilatation of both lateral ventricles. The tumor measured 11 cm. in maximum diameter. Its gross appearance is illustrated on the accompanying kodachrome.

Points for Discussion:

1. Diagnosis.