

CASE 10

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This 5-11/12 year old boy was well until six months prior to death when headache, irritability, dizziness, and vomiting resulted in a posterior fossa exploration which revealed a medulloblastoma filling the fourth ventricle. It seemed attached to the floor. Partial removal and a Torkildsen procedure were carried out. Postoperatively he received 3,200 r to the spinal canal and 2,000 r to the skull. He did poorly until four months before death when headache and vomiting recurred. He was markedly obtunded on examination and the decompression site was bulging. Decadron 2.5 mgm. t.i.d. was started and continued for 45 days until three days prior to death. An additional course of radiation to the skull totalling 2,600 r was interrupted because of progressive pancytopenia. Five days prior to death: RBC - 1.95 m, WB \bar{C} - 950, platelets - 20,000.

At autopsy he had an obstructive hydrocephalus and yellow marrow of sternum, ribs, and vertebrae.