

AANP Slide Session 1965 – Case 4

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A 20-year-old woman known to have had right hemiplegia from birth. Details of the early history are not available but the patient was noted to have a limp as soon as she began to walk. When she began school, she had learning difficulties and was placed in a special class. At the age of 20, she had the manner and appearance of a 10 year old. She completed 8 years of school before entering high school at the age of 16. There she passed only three major subjects in 2 years.

On examination there was marked spasticity of the right upper and lower limbs, and the right arm was definitely smaller than the left. There was loss of position sense and astereognosis of the right upper limb.

Over the years, she developed chronic glomerulonephritis with secondary hyperparathyroidism. She died in uremia of her kidney disease.

At postmortem, the general pathological findings consisted in chronic interstitial glomerulonephritis with fibrosis and atrophy of the kidneys; acute bronchopneumonia; pulmonary edema and hemorrhage.

There was a large porencephalic cyst involving the left cerebral hemisphere, over the distribution of the middle cerebral artery but including also the left paracentral lobule. The left pyramidal tract was markedly hypoplastic.

The slides submitted include sections through the pons and spinal cord. Both levels are oriented in the same direction.