



Porencephaly in the Adult Age

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Keywords

Porencephaly; Magnetic resonance imaging; CT

Clinical Image

Porencephaly is a rare entity, estimated in 3.5:100.000 live births [1]. It consists in encephalic cysts or cavities filled with cephalorachidian liquid. It is correlated with infections, ischemia or brain hemorrhage [1,2]. More unusually, the COL4A1 gene mutation (chromosome 3) leads to a dominant autosomes condition [3]. The symptoms vary with the volume and location of the lesion. The onset occurs predominantly during childhood [4].

A 77 years old female patient presented with fever, confusion, vomiting, nuchal rigidity and high inflammatory markers. A viral meningoencephalitis was considered and she began empiric acyclovir and ceftriaxone. Cranial Computerized Tomography (CT) identified a left parietal lesion and the neurotropic viruses in the cephalorachidian liquid were negative. The brain Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) confirmed a left parietal porencephalic cyst (Figure 1). The infection resolved and she recovered her cognitive state.

This rare case alarms the under diagnosed of this childhood likely condition also found in asymptomatic adults.

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Received Date: 12 Jul 2021

Accepted Date: 22 Jul 2021

Published Date: 26 Jul 2021

Citation:

Guerra MA, Araujo J, Staring G, Amorim F, Barracha I, Amorim R. Porencephaly in the Adult Age. *Ann Clin Case Rep.* 2021; 6: 1955.

ISSN: 2474-1655

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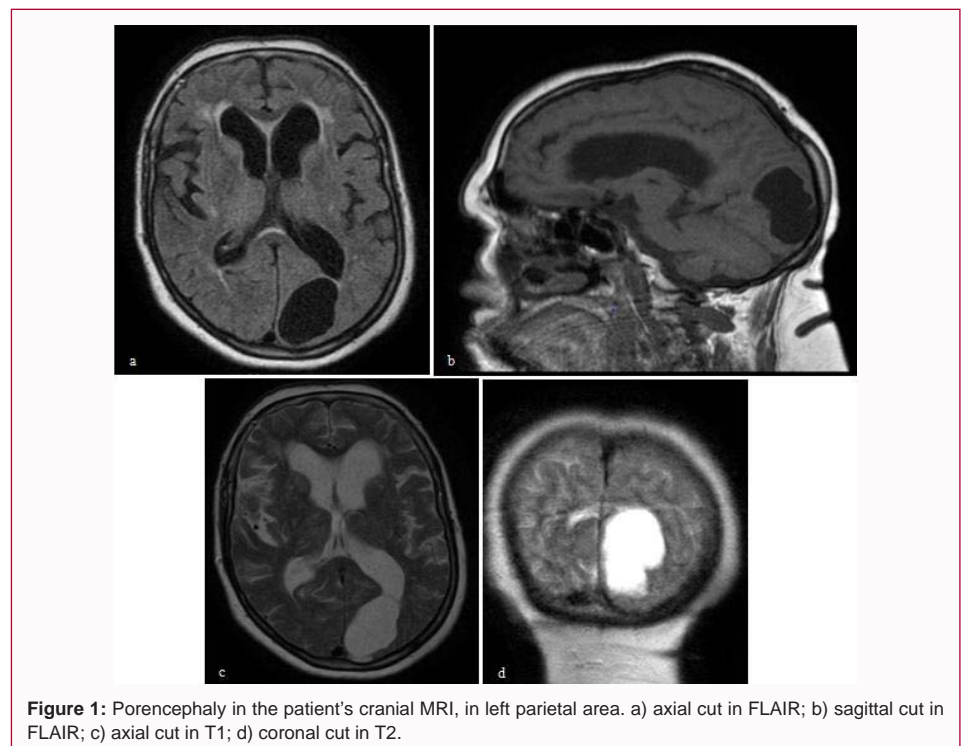


Figure 1: Porencephaly in the patient's cranial MRI, in left parietal area. a) axial cut in FLAIR; b) sagittal cut in FLAIR; c) axial cut in T1; d) coronal cut in T2.

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