Figure. MRI of the brain (coronal T2-weighted [A] and axial T1-weighted [B] images) showing a giant arachnoidal cyst of the dominant hemisphere, occasionally revealed. Intrathecal injection of iodinated contrast medium did not show additional abnormalities (CT scan images not shown).

Asymptomatic giant arachnoidal cyst

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A 39-year-old right-handed man, with a high-school education, good social and job functioning, and good command of three foreign languages (English, Spanish, and, in part, Arabic), had a

3-year history of mild migraine without aura. Neurologic examination and standardized cognitive assessment revealed normal findings. Brain CT scan and MRI showed a giant congenital supratentorial arachnoidal cyst occupying the anterior two thirds of the left hemisphere (figure). Because our patient was right handed, we assume that speech function was localized to the left hemisphere. Although this has not been tested, this case confirms that motor functions can be maintained even if a large part of a hemisphere is affected during development.¹

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