Obstructive hydrocephalus due to cavernous dilation of Virchow-Robin spaces

A 10-year-old girl presented with a 4-month history of headache and with a normal examination. MRI showed a multi-cyst mesencephalic lesion isointense relative to CSF on all sequences; there was mass effect on the aqueduct with obstructive hydrocephalus (figure). Infections, tumors, and epidermoid cyst were considered, but the characteristic location along the path of a penetrating vessel and magnetic resonance appearance is virtually pathognomonic of cavernous dilation of Virchow-Robin spaces.1,2 She received a ventriculoperitoneal shunt with prompt improvement of the headache and the hydrocephalus. Clinical and imaging follow-up examinations revealed no change.

L. Flors, MD, C. Leiva-Salinas, MD, G. Cabrera, MD, M. Mazón, MD, C. Poyatos, MD, Valencia, Spain

Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Lucia Flors, Department of Radiology, Hospital Universitario Doctor Peset, Gaspar Aguilar 90, 46017 Valencia, Spain; flors_luc@gva.es

Obstructive hydrocephalus due to cavernous dilation of Virchow-Robin spaces

*Neurology* 2010;74;1746
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3181e04312

This information is current as of May 24, 2010