Mystery Case:
Idiopathic bilateral stenosis of the foramina of Monro

Eytan Raz, MD
Girish Fatterpekar, MD
Adam J. Davis, MD
Paul P. Huang, MD
John P. Loh, MD

A 42-year-old man presented with chronic, continuous, bifrontal pressure headaches, slightly worse in the morning, forgetfulness, and confusion. There was no history of prior CNS hemorrhage or infection. The neurologic examination was unremarkable. No papilledema was present. Neuroimaging demonstrated symmetric enlargement of the lateral ventricles, a slit-like third ventricle, and downwards transtentorial herniation (figure 1). No mass lesion or abnormal enhancement was seen. A diagnosis of idiopathic bilateral stenosis of the foramina of Monro was considered. The patient underwent endoscopic

Axial T2-weighted images demonstrate dilated lateral ventricles. The third ventricle is slit-like. There is downwards transtentorial herniation of the midbrain.

(A) Intraoperative endoscopic photograph shows a thin, translucent membrane covering the left foramen of Monro (asterisk). There is no evidence of tumor. (B) A Fogarty catheter was inserted through this web and inflated. (C) After removal of the catheter, a patent foramen of Monro is seen. A septostomy was subsequently performed to allow CSF flow from the right lateral ventricle into the now patent left foramen of Monro.
foraminoplasty of the left foramen of Monro and septoplasty (figure 2). Follow-up demonstrated resolution of the hydrocephalus and regression of symptoms. Nine cases of idiopathic bilateral stenosis of the foramina of Monro have been published.1 Bilateral lateral ventricular hydrocephalus and a slit-like third ventricle in the absence of focal mass lesion or abnormal enhancement at the foramina of Monro should raise a red flag for this uncommon treatable entity.2

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Dr. Raz: manuscript drafting and literature research. Dr. Fatterpekar: revising the manuscript for intellectual content. Dr. Davis: revising the manuscript for intellectual content and literature research. Dr. Huang: manuscript drafting and revising the manuscript for intellectual content. Dr. Loh: revising the manuscript for intellectual content.

REFERENCES
Mystery Case: Idiopathic bilateral stenosis of the foramina of Monro
Eytan Raz, Girish Fatterpekar, Adam J. Davis, et al.

Neurology 2012;79:e166-e167
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e318271f792

This information is current as of October 29, 2012