

Correspondence

A patient with cape like sensory loss of arms and shoulders

To the Editor

Please allow me to comment on a recent paper published by Dr. Fatehi et al.¹ If you show an example of syringo/hydromyelia with Chiari malformation, than you should mention in the treatment that the first surgical attempt, particularly in such cases, is posterior decompression by small craniectomy for just widening of foramen magnum, and laminectomy of C1, then shrinking the cerebellar tonsils by coagulation or resection, and finally duraplasty. In most cases, the syrinx will regress spontaneously without myelotomy or shunting.

Mowaffak El-Azm
Department of Neurosurgery
Al-Hada Armed Forces Hospital
Taif, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Reply from the Author

I am greatly thankful to Doctor El-Azm for sharing his opinion on the clinical quiz “syringomyelia”.¹ I agree with Doctor El-Azm on the treatment of syringomyelia.

The treatment of syringomyelia actually depends on the main cause of the syrinx, the symptoms, and the amount of compression on the nervous tissue. If the syringomyelia is asymptomatic, it could be left without any intervention. In symptomatic patients, surgery should be usually performed to alleviate the symptoms; furthermore, in some patients, holdup treatment may cause irreversible consequences. For a syringomyelia, as a result of tumor, removal of the sinister pathology is usually sufficient and drainage of syrinx is not recommended. In cases of hydrocephaly, it is crucial to drain the CSF to a cavity such as the abdomen. It is noticeable that, however, inserting a shunt is accompanied by some adverse effects such as infection of shunt, obstruction of shunt, possible injury to the spinal cord, and malfunction.

Farzad Fatehi
Department of Neurology
Isfahan University of Medical Sciences
Isfahan, Iran

References

1. Fatehi F, Zare M, Basiri K, Saadatnia M. A patient with cape like sensory loss of arms and shoulders. *Neurosciences* 2008; 13: 461-462.

NOTICE OF DUPLICATE PUBLICATION

The article “Comparison of entropy and bispectral index values during propofol induction” by Balci et al published in the April 2008 issue of *Neurosciences*¹ is identical to an article, by the same authors, published in the *Archives of Medical Science* in December 2007.² It is the judgment of the Editors that this overlap represents duplicate publication.

1. Balci C, Karabekir HS, Yigit M. Comparison of entropy and bispectral index values during propofol induction. *Neurosciences* 2008; 13: 122-126.
2. Balci C, Karabekir HS, Yigit M. Comparison of entropy and bispectral index values during propofol induction. *Arch Med Sci* 2007; 34: 383-387.