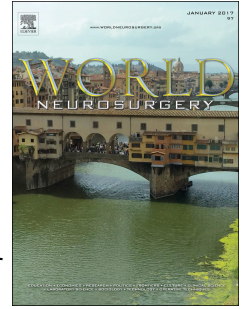


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Surgically treated de novo cervico-medullary arachnoid cyst in a symptomatic adult patient

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Title: Surgically treated de novo cervico-medullary arachnoid cyst in a symptomatic adult patient

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Key Words: Arachnoid cyst, vertigo, sarcoidosis

Running Title: Symptomatic de novo posterior fossa arachnoid cyst

Abstract:

Arachnoid cysts are a relatively common finding in adult patients, especially with the advent of advanced imaging techniques. The overall incidence ranges from 1-2%, and the majority are clinically silent^{1,2}. Arachnoid cysts are postulated to arise by congenital anomalies or trauma¹. De novo formation of arachnoid cysts has been reported, but is exceptionally rare and mostly found in the pediatric population after head trauma³⁻⁵. There have only been two reported cases of symptomatic de novo arachnoid cyst formation in adult patients to date, both with histories of head trauma^{6,7}. We present a case of a 71-year-old male patient with progressive vertigo who had previous brain MRI studies without abnormalities. Another MRI was performed three years from the last study that showed interval development of a large cystic lesion compressing the right cervicomedullary junction, as well as radiologic evidence of neurosarcoidosis. Intraoperative findings showed a cystic mass with clear, gelatinous fluid. The cyst was drained and the walls were resected and sent to pathology. Histopathologic testing confirmed the lesion was an arachnoid cyst. The patient's vertiginous symptoms improved after surgery. This case represents the first incidence of a pathology proven, non-traumatic de novo arachnoid cyst.

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