

Letter to the Editor

Hydatid Cyst in Cerebellum: A Rare Case Report

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Abstract

Hydatid cyst in the cerebellum is extremely rare. This is a case report of cerebellar hydatid cyst in a 60-year-old man presented with truncal ataxia. CT and MRI scan of the brain was done and hydatid cyst was suspected. Complete microsurgical excision was done using the Dowling technique.

Keywords

- cerebellar hydatid cyst

The patient recovered well. He was given albendazole for 1 month. Histopathology confirmed the diagnosis of hydatid cyst. Literature was reviewed and the disease was analyzed.

Introduction

The hydatid cyst is the larval form of the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*.^{1,2} Humans are the intermediate hosts in the parasite's lifecycle.¹ Hydatid disease is transferred to human by ingestion of food contaminated by the scolex, or eggs, or by direct contact with dog.¹ The hydatid cyst reaches the brain after passing through the liver and the lungs.¹ The majority of such cysts remain in the liver and lungs; only 1 to 2% of the cysts reach the brain.^{1,2}

A 60-year-old man presented with walking difficulty due to truncal ataxia. Computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan of the brain (►Fig. 1) was done and it showed a cystic midline cerebellar lesion. Hydatid cyst was suspected. Midline suboccipital craniectomy (►Fig. 2) and complete excision of that cyst were done using the Dowling technique.^{3,4} Histopathology showed (►Fig. 3) the features of hydatid cyst.⁵ One-month postoperative course of albendazole (10 mg/kg) was given.^{1,3} Patient recovered well over next 3 months.

Discussion

Cerebral hydatid cyst is very rare comprising just 1 to 2% of all cases of hydatid disease.² In India, the hydatid disease is more commonly seen in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab. In

India, incidence of intracranial hydatids cyst is 0.2%.² Intracranial hydatid cysts are more frequently located in the supratentorial compartment. Parietal lobe is the most common site.² The other less common sites reported include the skull, cavernous sinus, eyeball, pons, extradural region, cerebellum, and ventricles.² Cerebellar hydatid cyst is rarer. Only two cases were reported.^{1,5} Our case is probably the third case.

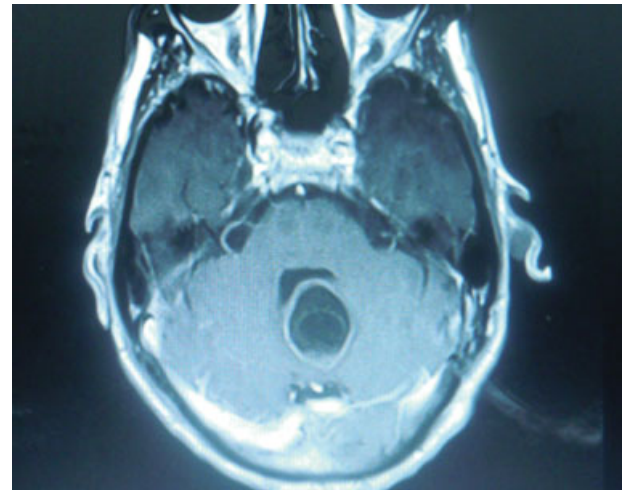


Fig. 1 Preoperative contrast MRI showing the suspected hydatid cyst.

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Fig. 2 Postoperative CT scan of the brain showing complete excision of cyst.

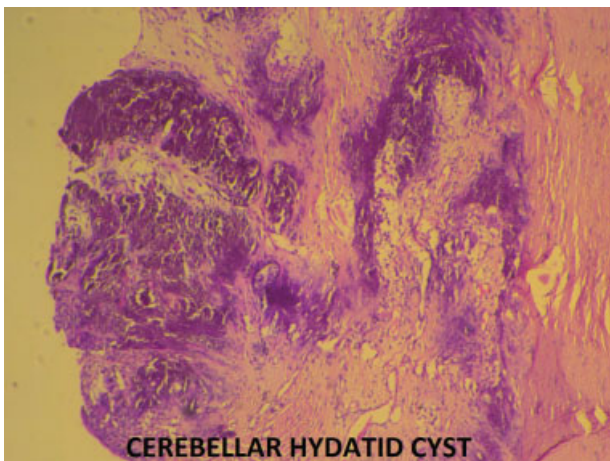


Fig. 3 H&E stain showing prominent investing cuticle and broad capsules.

Source(s) of Support
None.

Conflict of Interest
None.

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