

Letter

A huge congenital arachnoid cyst in a rheumatoid arthritis patient

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To the Editor:

A 34-year-old woman was examined for polyarthritis in November 2000. She had developed a severe headache 10 days previously. She had developed rheumatoid arthritis (Fig. 1) in 1998, and had been treated with prednisone and methotrexate at our outpatient clinic since February 2000. At the consultation, the presenting feature was polyarthritis



Fig. 1. Radiograph of the patient's feet in 1998

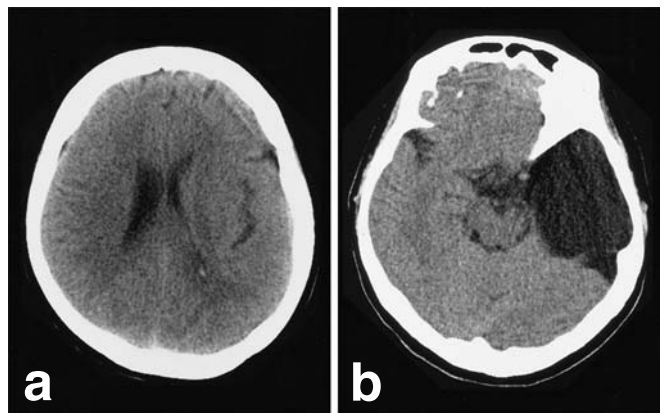


Fig. 2. Brain computed tomography in 2000

only, without the headache. There was no visual disturbance, seizures, lethargy, delayed development, or neurological deficit. Her blood pressure was normal, and she had no history of trauma. She was born of a full-term pregnancy and by normal vaginal delivery without prenatal complications. A computed tomography (CT) scan showed a huge arachnoid cyst in the left temporal lobe (Fig. 2), which was confirmed by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Electroencephalogram findings were normal. Arachnoid cysts may become symptomatic at any time of life, or may remain occult, appearing as incidental findings at autopsy. Most case reports are secondary to inflammation or trauma and related nervous system malformations.^{1,2} This case of a huge congenital arachnoid cyst without any neurological symptoms or signs in an adult patient with rheumatoid arthritis is very rare.

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