

Admittedly, the possibility of spontaneous improvement must also be considered.

The concurrence of aortic coarctation and hydrocephalus is certainly uncommon, and the complication of paraplegia with shunt malfunction is exceptional. The present case is interesting not only because of its rarity, but also because it reemphasizes the concept of an effect of hydrocephalus on spinal cord perfusion pressure. It may well be that progression of spinal cord abnormalities in some patients having the spina bifida complex may be in part related to decreased spinal cord perfusion pressure caused by shunt malfunctions. Vascular compression on the basis of fibrosis, stretching of vessels, or angulation of the spine would become significant in the face of acute, severe increases in spinal fluid pressure. Further consideration of this mechanism seems warranted.

References

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4. Darwish H, Archer C, Modin J (1979) The anterior spinal artery collateral in coarctation of the aorta. *Arch Neurol* 36:240-243
5. Griffiths IR, Pitts LH, Crawford RA, Trench JG (1978) Spinal cord compression and blood flow. I. The effect of raised cerebrospinal fluid pressure on spinal cord blood flow. *Neurology* 28:1145-1151
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Announcements

The 14th Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery will take place in Madrid, Spain, September 30-October 3, 1986. *Chairman:* Francisco J. Villarejo, Prado del Rey, 65, Somosaguas, 28023 Madrid, Spain.

The Annual Meeting of the Pediatric Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on December 2-5, 1986. *For further information, please contact:* Donald H. Reigel, M.D., Suite 158, 4815 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, USA.

The International Post-graduate Course in Pediatric Neurosurgery will be held in Rome, Italy, on May 18-20, 1987. *For further information, please contact:* C. Di Rocco, M.D., or M. Caldarelli, M.D., Department of Neurosurgery, Catholic University Medical School, Largo Gemelli 8, I-00168 Rome, Italy; telephone: 06/33054495.