Response to ‘Letter to the Editor’ in Child’s Brain 6: 169 (1980)

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We would like to respond to Dr. Gardner’s comment on our article entitled ‘Congenital Midline Porencephaly’ which appeared in Child’s Brain 5: 380-397 (1979). Against his opinion that our porencephaly is the diverticulum of the third ventricle with absent corpus callosum, we made a clear distinction between them (as stated in our article) from the radiological and operative findings as well as on the basis of histological evidence of the roofing membrane. Furthermore, the coexistence of an enlarged fourth ventricle was deniable due to the findings of the vertebral angiography. Dr. Gardner seems to misinterpret the venous structures of our cases, in which the torcular portion is in a high position and the transverse sinuses show an inverted ‘V configuration; though the most important point is the dysgenesis of the galenic draining system. These venous structures as seen in the embryonic period are not attributed to the failed descent of the ten-torium due to the expansive lesion in the posterior fossa, but signify the arrested development of the dural sinuses which is accompanied by failure of tentorial formation. Further details concerning the above are described in another article [1]. None of our cases had evidence indicating the Dandy-Walker malformation and subsequent diverticular dilatation of the third ventricle.

Reference

1 Yokota, A.; et al.: Structures and development of the venous system in congenital malformations of the brain. Neuroradiology 16: 26–30 (1978).