J.	Juan F.	Martínez-Lage
M.	Máximo	Poza
J.	Joaquín	Sola

Regional Service of Neurosurgery, Virgen de Arrixaca University Hospital, Murcia, Spain

Dermoid and Epidermoid Tumors in Myelomeningocele Patients

Sir,

Chaddock and Roloson [1] reported in *Pediatric Neurosurgery* the case of a newborn girl with myelomeningocele and an associated dermoid cyst in the **f**ilum terminale. The dermoid was found incidentally during myelomeningocele repair. They comment that dermoids and epidermoids may be encountered in two situations. One is in the presence of spina bifida occulta. The other is in patients with surgically treated spina bifida aperta. In these cases, the development of dermoids or epidermoids was attributed to the accidental implant of epithelial rests at the time of surgical closure.

Although not inferring a definite relationship, the authors discuss available data and suggest a common **e**mbryological origin for the occurrence of both the myelomeningocele and the dermoid in their case. In this regard, we would like to refer to two previous articles [2, 3] dealing with the same subject that share the same opinion, and that might be pertinent to add to the reference list of Chaddock and Roloson. In **18**94, Muscatello reported a female infant who had a thoracic meningocele, an extradural epidermoid cyst at L4-5, and a thoracic dermoid that were found at autopsy [2]. In 1983, we reported the case of a 4-month-old boy with a **l**umbo-sacral myelomeningocele that harbored an epidermoid cyst. The small pearly tumor was found to be adherent to the dorsal surface of the conus within the malformation sac during the routine repair of the myelomeningocele. We suggested that this association might not be fortuitous and traced both events to the time of posterior neuropore closure, at the 25-somite stage (4th week of embryonic life) [3].

References

Chaddock WM, Roloson GJ: Dermoid in the filum terminale of a newborn with myelomeningocele. *Pediatr Neurosurg* 1993;19:81-83. Muscatello G: Über die angeborenen Spalten des Schädels und Wirbelsäule. *Arch Klin Chir* 1894;47:162-301.

Martínez-Lage JF, Masegosa J, Sola J, Poza M: Epidermoid cyst occurring within a lumbosa-cra**l** myelomeningocele. Case report. *J Neurosurg* 1983;59:1095-1097.

© **19**94 S. Karger AG, Basel
1016-2291/94/0204-0274
\$5.00/0