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Recurrent Compression of Chiari Malformation

D.D. Cochrane, MD, Neurological Surgery, British Columbia's Children's Hospital, 4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4 (Canada)

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the description of recurrent compression of Chiari malformation due to bone regrowth following laminectomy in infancy [Pediatr Neurosurg 1995; 23:323-327]. The hypothesis that the authors put forward as to the etiology of bone regrowth is entirely plausible with periosteum raised with the paraspinal musculature, but also the ventral periosteum being left behind attached to the subjacent dura. This is most obvious to the surgeon as the 'fibrous band' that lies beneath C1, the band being the periosteum of the arch of the atlas. Similar recognizable tags of periosteum can be seen at other levels. Fortunately, recurrent symptomatology in this group of patients is rare, particularly when associated with bony regrowth and compression. The potential for bone regrowth may, in part, account for the lack of subsequent craniocervical instability occurring in patients who undergo a laminectomy so early.

KAUFER
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