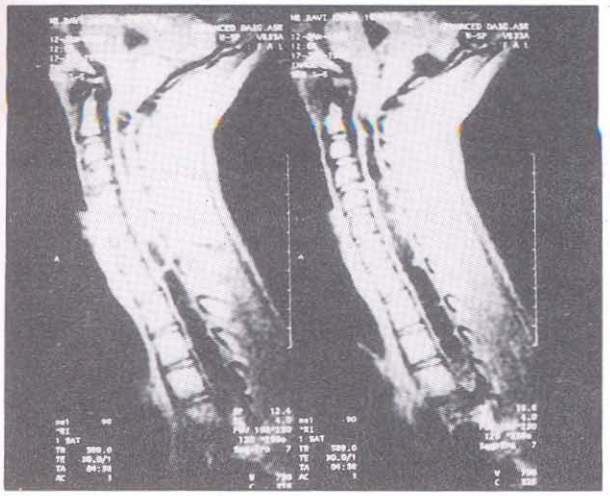
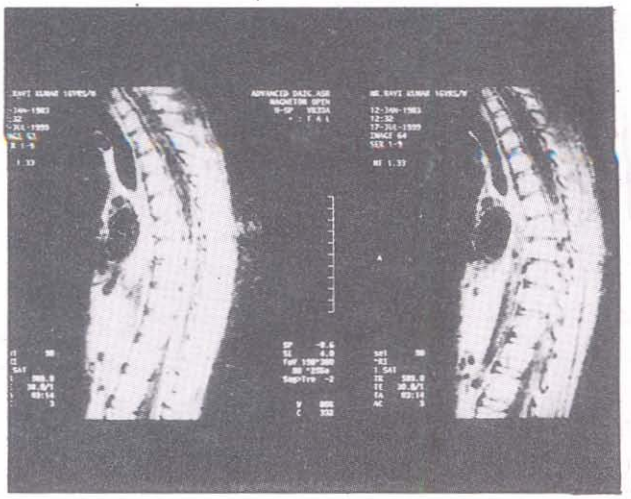
IMAGES DAY TO DAY

Arnold Chiari Malformation (ACM) with Syringomyelia–MRI Appearance

Anil Sharma, MCh



A



B

MRI films (T_1 Weighted Images) showing herniation of cerebellar tonsils below foramen magnum and a non-communicating multiloculated syrinx (coin-stacked appearance) starting from C_2 myelotome and extending up to T_6 area. There is associated foramen magnum stenosis. The above MRI films are of a young boy who presented with short neck, low hair line and pyramidal–cerebellar signs. He had features of dissociated anaesthesia.

ACM are of various types. ACM-I is associated with cerebellar tonsillar herniation and has maximum incidence of syrinx formation which could be of communicating or non-communicating variety. Clinically, symptoms of syringomyelia may over shadow those of foramen magnum stenosis. Syringo - subarachnoid shunting coupled with posterior fossa craniectomy may be of great help in arresting the further progression of disease.

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