

Letter to the Editor

# Hydatid Cyst in Cerebellum: A Rare Case Report

Amit Kumar Ghosh<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Global Hospital, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Address for correspondence Amit Kumar Ghosh, DNB, Embassy Residency, Perumbakkam, Saraswati-Rajasekhar Salai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600100, India (e-mail: amitghosh74@yahoo.co.in).

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## Abstract

Hydatid cyst in the cerebellum is extremely rare. This is a case report of cerebellar hydatid cyst in a 60-year-old man presented with truncal ataxia. CT and MRI scan of the brain was done and hydatid cyst was suspected. Complete microsurgical excision was done using the Dowling technique.

## Keywords

- cerebellar hydatid cyst

The patient recovered well. He was given albendazole for 1 month. Histopathology confirmed the diagnosis of hydatid cyst. Literature was reviewed and the disease was analyzed.

## Introduction

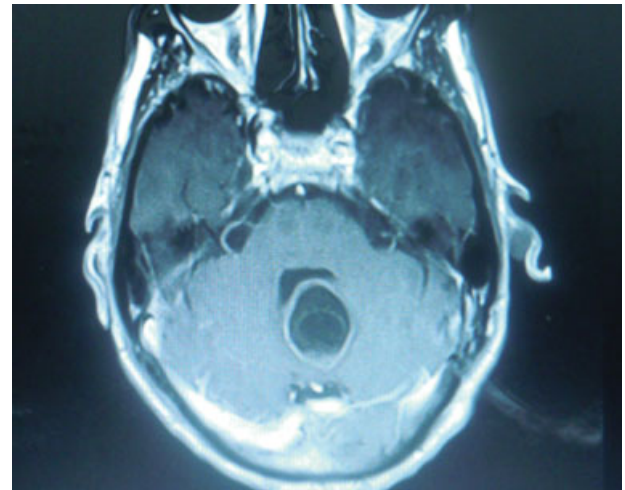
The hydatid cyst is the larval form of the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*.<sup>1,2</sup> Humans are the intermediate hosts in the parasite's lifecycle.<sup>1</sup> Hydatid disease is transferred to human by ingestion of food contaminated by the scolex, or eggs, or by direct contact with dog.<sup>1</sup> The hydatid cyst reaches the brain after passing through the liver and the lungs.<sup>1</sup> The majority of such cysts remain in the liver and lungs; only 1 to 2% of the cysts reach the brain.<sup>1,2</sup>

A 60-year-old man presented with walking difficulty due to truncal ataxia. Computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan of the brain (►Fig. 1) was done and it showed a cystic midline cerebellar lesion. Hydatid cyst was suspected. Midline suboccipital craniectomy (►Fig. 2) and complete excision of that cyst were done using the Dowling technique.<sup>3,4</sup> Histopathology showed (►Fig. 3) the features of hydatid cyst.<sup>5</sup> One-month postoperative course of albendazole (10 mg/kg) was given.<sup>1,3</sup> Patient recovered well over next 3 months.

## Discussion

Cerebral hydatid cyst is very rare comprising just 1 to 2% of all cases of hydatid disease.<sup>2</sup> In India, the hydatid disease is more commonly seen in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab. In

India, incidence of intracranial hydatids cyst is 0.2%.<sup>2</sup> Intracranial hydatid cysts are more frequently located in the supratentorial compartment. Parietal lobe is the most common site.<sup>2</sup> The other less common sites reported include the skull, cavernous sinus, eyeball, pons, extradural region, cerebellum, and ventricles.<sup>2</sup> Cerebellar hydatid cyst is rarer. Only two cases were reported.<sup>1,5</sup> Our case is probably the third case.



**Fig. 1** Preoperative contrast MRI showing the suspected hydatid cyst.

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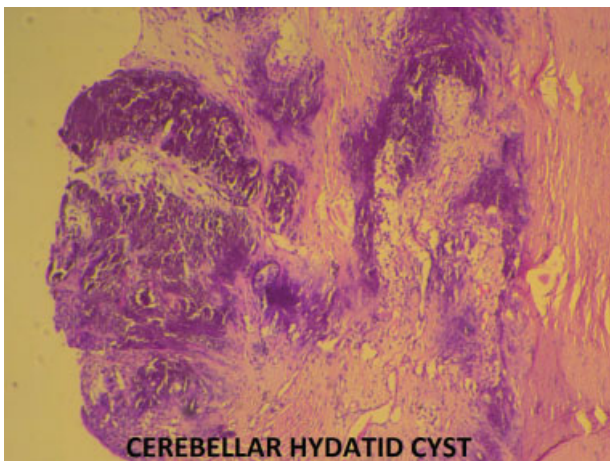
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**Fig. 2** Postoperative CT scan of the brain showing complete excision of cyst.



**Fig. 3** H&E stain showing prominent investing cuticle and broad capsules.

Source(s) of Support  
None.

Conflict of Interest  
None.

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