

Posterior fossa malformations

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Chiari malformations involve cerebellar herniation through the foramen magnum: /uni25CF Normal: up to 5 /uni00A0 mm of cerebellar tonsillar descent through the foramen magnum. /uni25CF Chiari I: >5 /uni00A0 mm of tonsillar descent; presents typically in young adults with cough headaches and neurological disturbance reflecting brainstem/cerebellar compression and/or formation of a fluid-filled syrinx in the spinal cord as a result of disordered CSF flow . Shunting and foramen magnum decompression are the mainstay of treatment. /uni25CF Chiari II: descent of the tonsils and vermis associated with myelomeningocele and hydrocephalus, so clinically appar ent in infancy . Dandy-Walker malformations present in infancy with macrocephaly , developmental delay and hydrocephalus; most patients have associated abnormalities in the CNS and other organ systems . Imaging demonstrates a hypoplastic cerebellar vermis, with the posterior fossa occupied by a large thin-walled cyst. Treatment usually involves shunt placement. Hans Chiari , 1851-1916, Professor of Pathological Anatomy , Strasbourg, Germany (Strasbourg was returned to France in 1918 after the end of the First World War), gave his account of this condition in 1891. Walter Edward Dandy , 1886-1946, American neurosurgeon and scientist, considered one of the founding fathers of neurosurgery . Arthur Earl Walker , 1907-1995, Canadian-born neurosurgeon, neuroscientist and epileptologist. -

Figure 48.28 An occipital encephalocele.

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