CASE 4

Submitted by: Dr. L. J. Rubinstein, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California
Ref. No. Montefiore Hospital, Autopsy #17241.

A 20 year old mentally retarded Negro girl, known to have had right hemiplegia from birth. Details of the early history are not available but the patient was an illegitimate child who was noted to have a limp as soon as she began to walk. Mental retardation, not noticed originally by her mother, was obvious when she began school and she was placed in a special class. Though she was severely retarded, and at the age of 20 had the manner and appearance of a 10 year old, she managed to complete 8 years of school before entering high school at the age of 16. There she managed to pass only three major subjects in 2 years.

On examination there was marked spasticity of the right upper and lower limbs, and the right arm was definitely smaller than the left. There was loss of position sense and astereognosis of the right upper limb.

Over the years she developed chronic glomerulonephritis with secondary hyperparathyroidism. She died in uremia of her kidney disease.

At postmortem the general pathological findings consisted in chronic interstitial glomerulonephritis with fibrosis and atrophy of the kidneys; acute bronchopneumonia; pulmonary edema and hemorrhage.

There was a large porencephalic cyst involving the left cerebral hemisphere, over the distribution of the middle cerebral artery but including also the left paracentral lobule. The left pyramidal tract was markedly hypoplastic.

The slides submitted include sections through the pons and spinal cord. Both levels are oriented in the same direction.