

NEW AND RARE CONGENITAL ANOMALIES EVERYDAY: ARE WE TO BLAME?

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Great advances have been made in the field of diagnosis and management of congenital anomalies during the last decade, yet new and rare congenital anomalies continue to be discovered. We present the imaging findings of a series of such central nervous system (CNS) structural anomalies diagnosed in our department over a 06 year period i.e may' 2005 to may' 2011.

Material and methods: Seven structural congenital CNS anomalies were observed during this period. These were, third cerebellar hemisphere, anterior thoracic myelomeningocele presenting as an abdominal mass, unilateral hypoplastic internal auditory meatus (IAC) with agenesis of facial and vestibulochochlear nerve presenting as congenital facial palsy, isolated agenesis of facial nerve presenting as congenital facial palsy, bilateral agenesis of oculomotor nerve presenting as bilateral ptosis, antenatal otocephaly and antenatal conjoined twins. All the anomalies were missed on other imaging modalities and a diagnosis could be made only on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Conclusion: Magnetic resonance imaging is the modality of choice for diagnosing structural CNS anomalies whether it in the antenatal period or the postnatal period. This makes us wonder whether discovery of new and rare anomalies everyday is because of advancement or is it the result. For all we know it could be a part of evolution.