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Tethered cord syndrome – Surgery, pathology and outcomes

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The author had the opportunity to treat 555 children with tethered cord syndrome. The age groups were ranging from one month to sixteen years. Pathologically myelomeningoceles were 179, Lipomeylomeningoceles were 198, split cord malformations were 35, low placed conus - 110, dermal sinus - 22, non neurogenic bladder - 11. They were all investigated and treated according to the pathology. Majority of children were asymptomatic and post operative results were different in symptomatic and asymptomatic groups. The neurological recovery was poor in symptomatic group with significant neurological deficits. Pathologically areas of cystic hygroma like enlarged spaces, hyper trophic muscle, abnormal lymphatics, dystrophic neural tissue were seen. Retethering was seen in about 10-15%. The algorithm the clinical outcomes will be presented.