

PP43

Double open neural tube defect: case report and 8 years follow-up

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Introduction: The presence of the double defect of the neural tube is an extremely rare condition. Few cases have been described in the literature. The objective of this study is to present the neurological, orthopedic and clinical picture of a patient with cervical meningocele associated with lumbosacral myelomeningocele. The longest follow-up in the literature, until now.

Materials and Methods: The study was performed with the patient J.A.N., age 8 years. At birth had a cervical meningocele, lumbosacral myelomeningocele and congenital bilateral clubfoot, which were surgically corrected, at the same time. Associated malformation: hydrocephalus, Chiari II malformation, hydrosyringomyelia in thoracic and lombar. The patient was categorized as the functional level of the lesion and the following factors were assessed: overall tone, muscle strength, deformities of the spine, hip, knee and ankle; equilibrium reaction, and type of gait. Functional performance was assessed using the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI).

Results: The patient had sacral functional level (L5-S1), lethargy and zero degree plantar flexors and intrinsic muscles of the feet. We note flexion contracture of bilateral knee to 15 degrees of angulation. Reaction effective balance in different postures, and crouch gait. In assessing the functional performance, was unable to performing the activities related to putting shoes in the area of self-care.

Conclusion: Despite presenting a complex neurological condition, the patient presented good quality of life. The cervical meningocele is a benign conditon and this patient shows a typical lumbosacral myelomeningocele.