

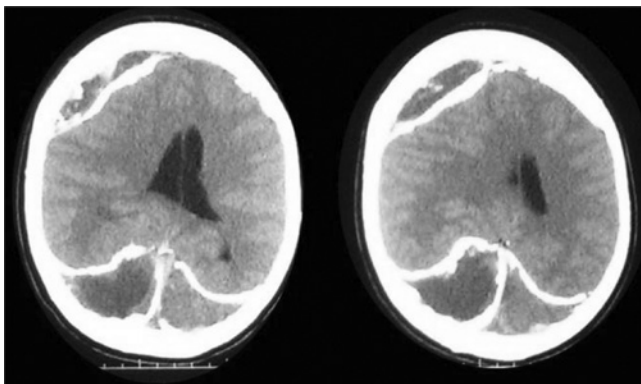
Armored brain

Cérebro blindado

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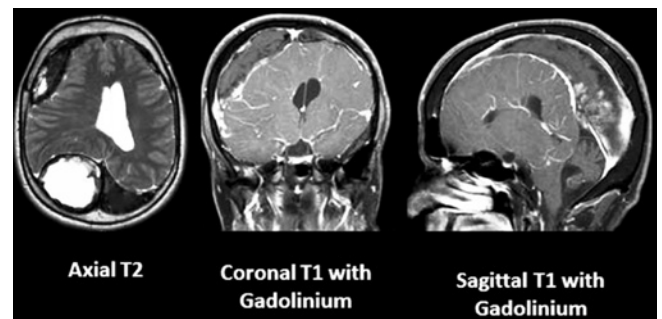
A 47-year-old man with a history of macrocephaly was diagnosed with spontaneous non-traumatic bilateral calcified subdural hematomas (SDHs) (Figures 1–2). He had chronic, daily, bilateral, dull headaches for many years. His head circumference was 62 cm, but his neurological examination was unremarkable. Calcified chronic SDHs are an unusual entity and a rare complication of chronic shunting for hydrocephalus¹. Although not previously diagnosed, we suspect he may have

suffered from arrested hydrocephalus. Due to his increased head circumference, stretching of bridging subdural veins may have developed, slowly enlarging the bilateral SDHs, which later became calcified. The encased appearance of the brain with bilateral and extensive chronic calcified SDHs is described as the “armored brain,” also known as “matryoshka head” after the famous Russian nesting dolls^{2–3}. Our observation is unique because our patient never underwent a shunting procedure.



CT: computed tomography, SDH: subdural hematoma.

Figure 1. Axial head CT without contrast showing bilateral SDHs with calcification giving an appearance of an armored brain (double skull).



MRI: magnetic resonance imaging, SDH: subdural hematoma.

Figure 2. Brain MRI demonstrating the extent of bilateral calcified SDHs encasing the brain giving appearance of an armored brain.

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