

CASE 1

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This baby boy, the grandson and nephew of physicians, developed recurrent episodes of purulent leptomeningitis beginning at age nine months when for one day he was noted to keep his head turned to the left. For the previous two weeks he had had several episodes of fever, for which antibiotics had been given, but otherwise his growth and development had been normal. Physical examination revealed that he resisted all movements of his neck. Purulent meningitis was diagnosed and treated, but relapsed several times, and he developed internal hydrocephalus, which required ventriculo-atrial shunt at age twelve months. He died at age fourteen months after another episode of meningitis and acute staphylococcal septicemia and bacterial endocarditis.

At autopsy a foreign body, 16 cm. long and 1 to 2 mm. in diameter, was found within and beneath the spinal dura extending from the cervical region down to the cauda equina. No portal of entry could be identified in skin, gastrointestinal tract or dura.