Temporal anterior encephalocele

A 45-year-old woman had complex partial seizures for 25 years with pharmacoresistance for 2 years. EEG showed right temporal epileptiform discharges. MRI revealed atrophy of the right temporal parenchyma (figure, A) herniating toward the pterygomaxillary fossa and the sphenoidal sinus (figure, C). CT demonstrated the bone defect of the sphenoid wing (figure, B) whereas the fusion of both techniques identified this abnormality as an anterobasal temporal encephalocele (figure, D) causing this late-onset epilepsy.1,2

Encephaloceles can arise from neural tube defect or trauma. Such a congenital temporal encephalocele should be considered in the differential diagnosis of temporal epilepsy and should prompt a surgical workup which may be curative.

M.I. Vargas, MD, S. Vulliemoz, MD, A. Rosset, MD, M. Seeck, MD, J. Delavelle, MD, Geneva, Switzerland

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Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Maria Isabel Vargas, Division of Neuroradiology, Department of Radiology, DISIM, Hôpital Universitaire HUG, 24 Micheli-du-Crest, 1211 Genève 14, Switzerland; maria.i.vargas@hcuge.ch

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