

**77 Pain in Children with Spinal Cord Tumors***Yoon S. Hahn, David McLone*

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Pain in children with central nervous system disease is often overlooked as a symptom leading to a diagnosis. To some extent this relative neglect may be a result of a general belief that pain is less of a problem in the pediatric age group. This is particularly true with spinal cord tumors in early childhood. The authors reviewed 58 spinal cord tumors encountered at the Children's Memorial Hospital from the years 1970 to 1980. Pain in the age group younger than 3 years and up to 15 years was analyzed and categorized according to intramedullary, intradural, or extradural involvement of the tumors. Among 58 cord tumors, 21 were intradural extramedullary; 12 intramedullary; and 25 extradural. The meaning of pain and its management in the pediatric age group is discussed.

**78 Hemispherectomy in Childhood***M.L. Walker, G.G. Myers, P. Madsen, A. Smith*

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2 cases of hemispherectomy, ages 5 and 6 years, because of infantile hemiplegia and intractable seizures are presented. Both patients have remained seizure-free. The first case was a right hemispherectomy in a 5-year-old boy. The second case followed 2 years later and was a left hemispherectomy in a 6-year-old girl. Both children have gone on to improved classwork activity and improvement of their hemiparesis. Extensive neuropsychological testing prior to the surgical procedure and for follow-up periods ranging from 4½ to 2½ years following the surgical procedures have documented continued intellectual improvement.

These examples of hemispherectomy in childhood are compared with that in the literature. It is suggested that hemispherectomy be accomplished at the earliest feasible date in order to maximize intellectual improvement.

## Announcement

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**Multidisciplinary Seminar on Spina Bifida**

On September 24–26, 1981, Children's Memorial Hospital will be hosting a comprehensive seminar including topics in orthopedics, neurosurgery, urology, and pediatrics. For information contact David G. McLone, MD, PhD, Children's Memorial Hospital, 2300 Children's Plaza, Chicago, IL 60614 (USA); tel. (312) 649-4373.