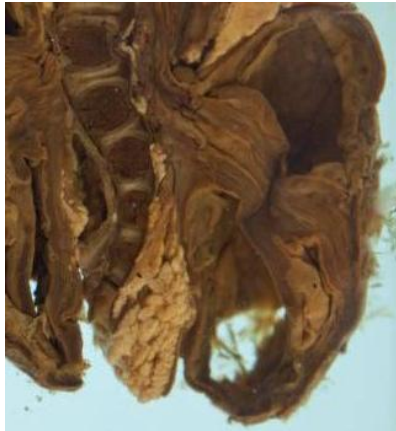


# Spina Bifida



Digital Pathology Collection

Case 7 2009

Ref. XII:i:4

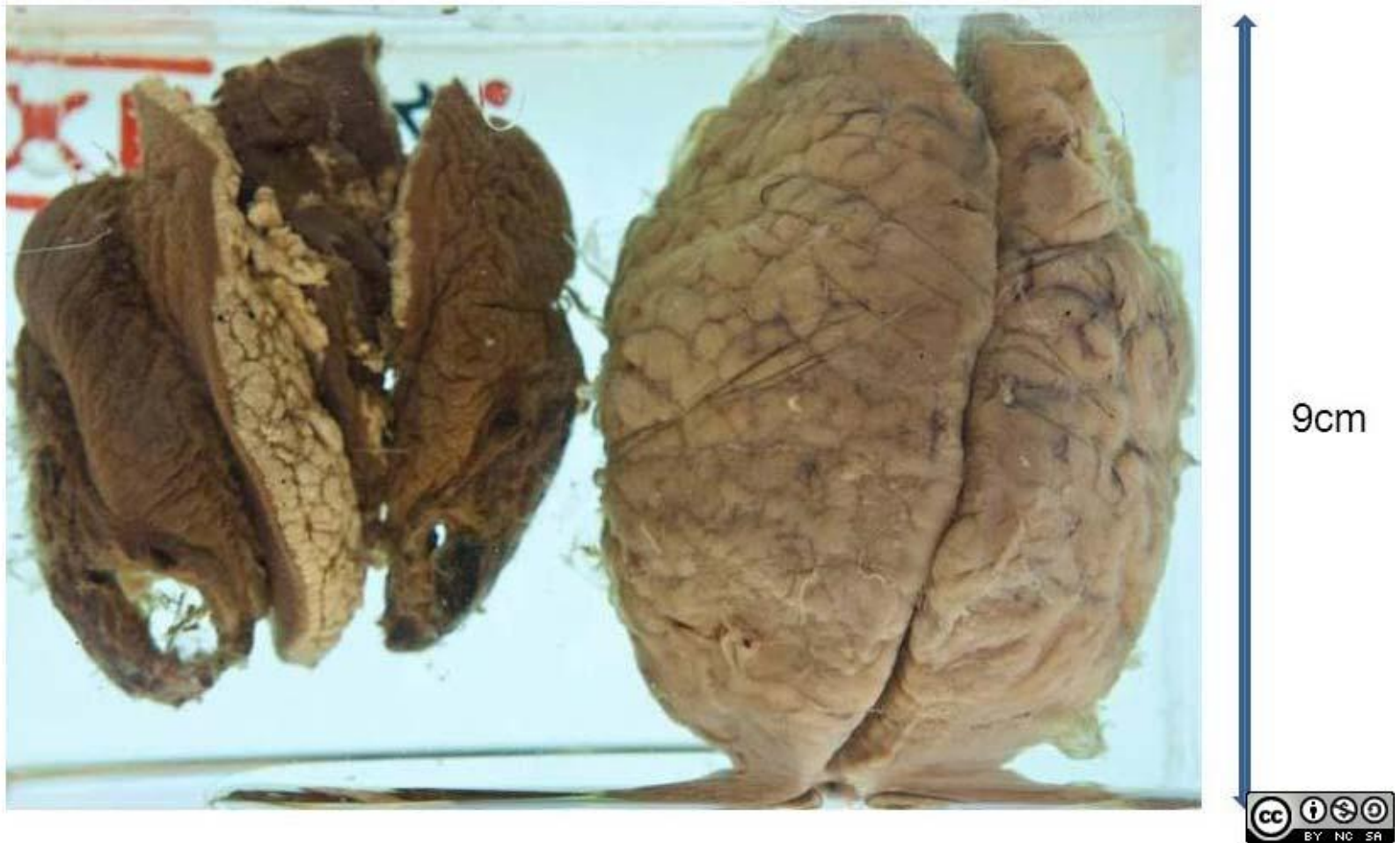


# Clinical data

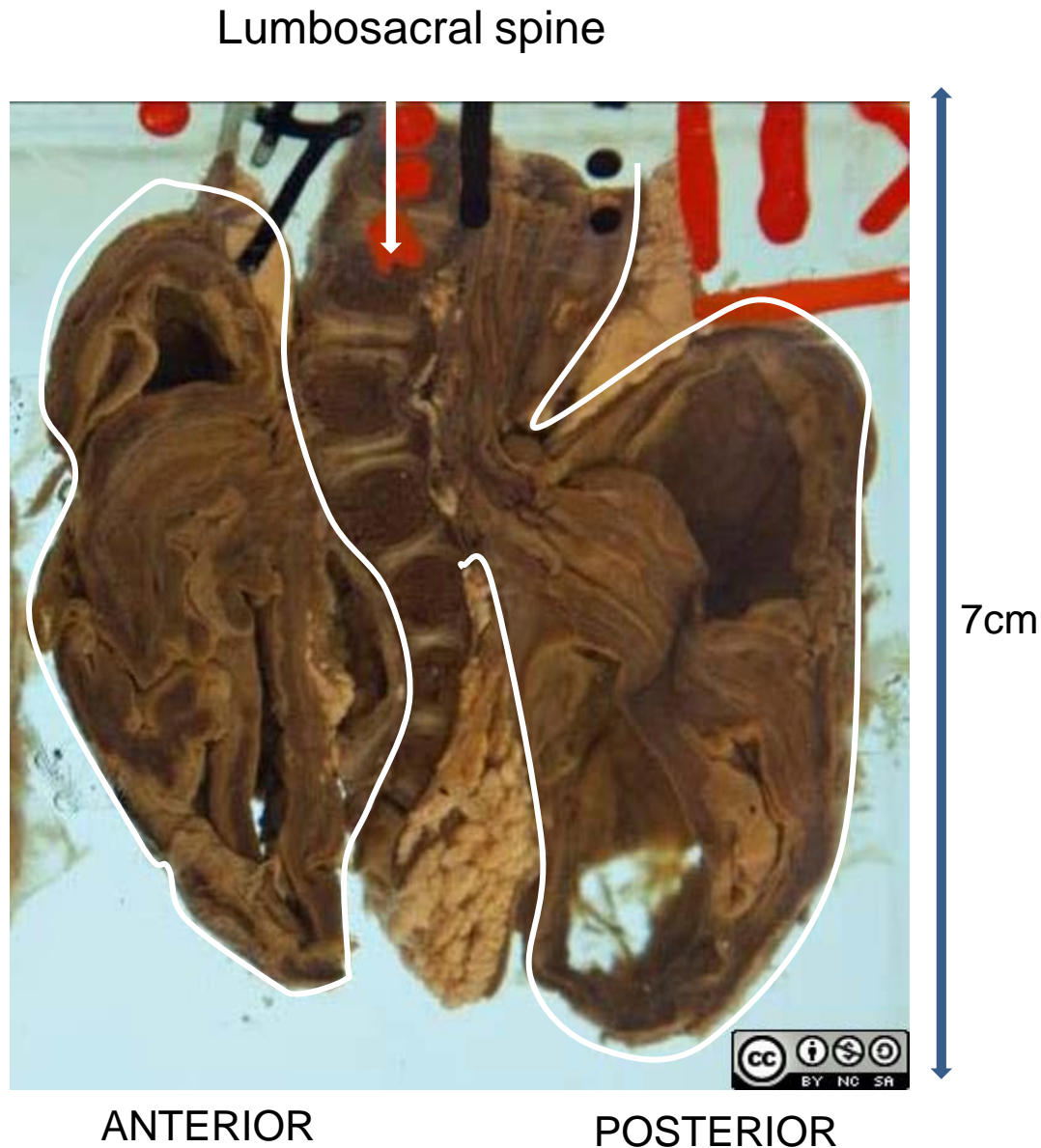
- An eighteen day old infant was admitted with a ruptured spina bifida and signs of meningitis, *viz.* neck rigidity and convulsions.

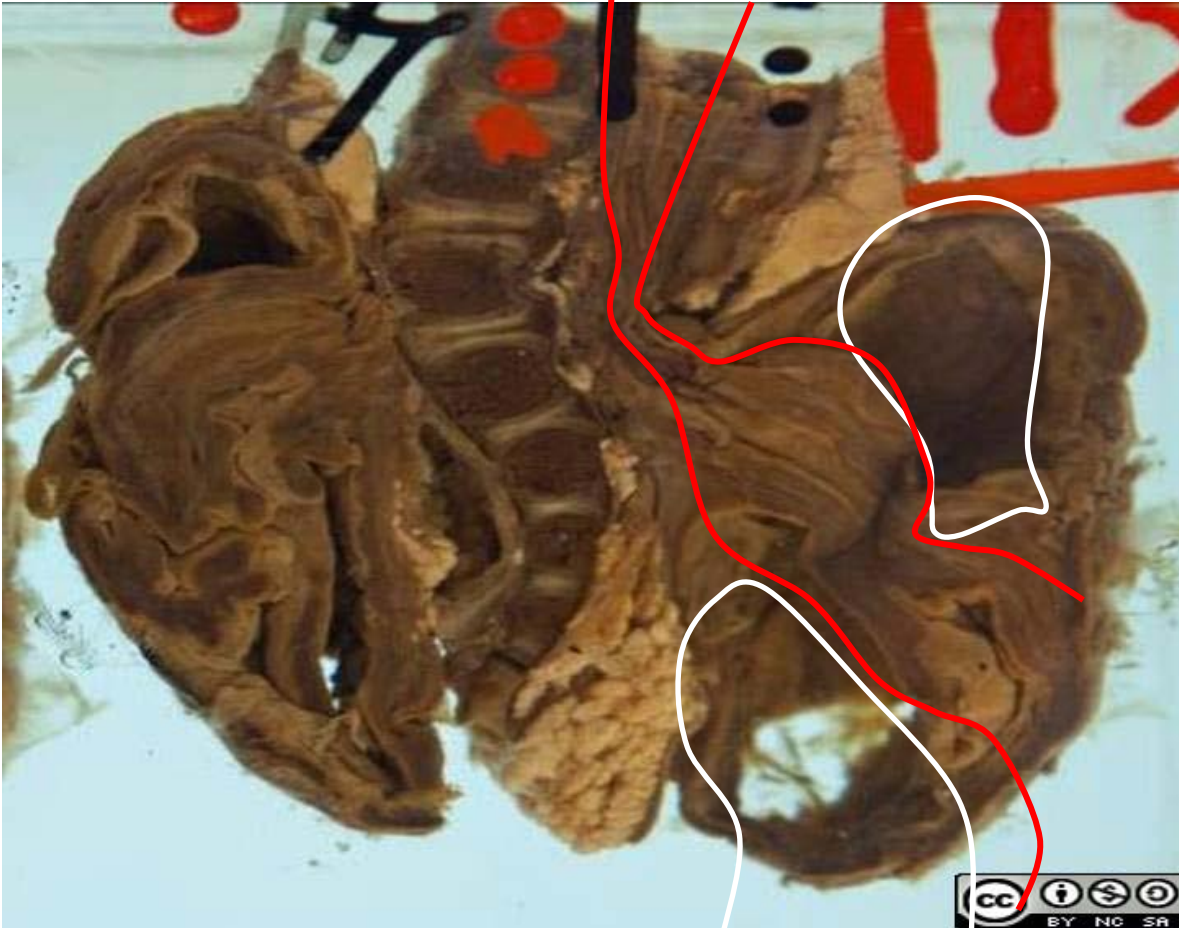


At post mortem there was a large cystic mass over the sacrum, covered in part by skin and in part by necrotic sloughing tissue. The specimen shows this lesion (excised) alongside the child's brain.



- This is a section through the baby's pelvis.
- Anteriorly lie the pelvic organs.
- Posteriorly, the spinal membranes and spinal cord bulge out through the unfused spinal vertebrae.





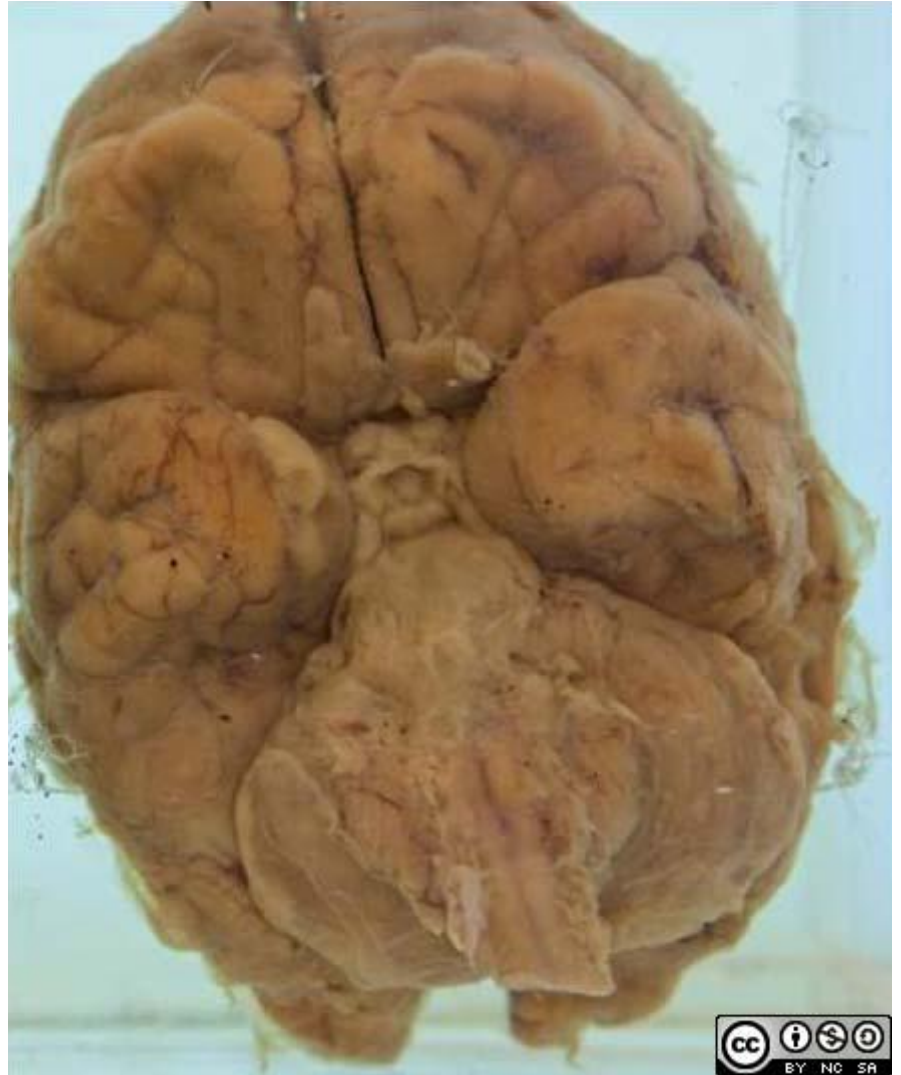
The greatly thickened cauda equina passes out to be incorporated in the posterior wall of the cyst

A pyogenic membrane lines the surrounding cyst.





- A suppurative exudate is present in the subarachnoid space of the brain, especially around the midbrain and pons.



- This is a myelomeningocele (or meningocele) since both meninges and neural tissue have extended through the defect in the spinal column.
- The major complications are neurological deficit in the lower limbs and in bowel and bladder control, as well as infection, which in this case has ascended to cause a fatal meningitis.



# Related specimens

- XII:i:1 Anencephaly
  - [Click here for 3D view](#)
- XII:i:5 Meningocele
- XII:i:8 Encephalocele







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