

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF WORK

Microcephaly means small head. It is generally considered as a sign of abnormal brain growth and is detected by a head circumference more than 2 standard deviations below the mean for age, sex and gestational period. A small cranial vault of approximately normal contour is seen in microcephaly associated with hypoplasia of the brain. Premature synostosis may occur. Secondary forms are also seen after intra-uterine brain damage as in maternal rubella or exposure to x-irradiation. A rare familial form (autosomal recessive) occurs in which the dome of the cranial vault is somewhat pointed when viewed from the front and in which the forehead slopes backwards. This type of microcephaly is commonly associated with impaired intellect.

The aim of this work is to study cases of microcephaly with various clinical presentations in order to reveal the various aetiological factors and their relation to the severity and other clinical manifestations of the disease.