Persistent craniopharyngeal canal
Canal craniofaríngeo persistente
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A two-year-old male, with delayed neuropsychomotor development underwent computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging (Figure). The diagnosis was persistent craniopharyngeal canal.

Persistent craniopharyngeal canal is a rare congenital anomaly of the skull base and is defined as a well-corticated osseous canal, extending from the roof of the nasopharynx to the base of the sella, over the sphenoid corpus, allowing the pituitary gland to present as a nasopharyngeal mass. Its origin may represent the remnant of the route of Rathke’s pouch1. Computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging evaluate the content and limits of the canal well, preventing surgical iatrogenesis, such as hypopituitarism and cerebrospinal fluid leakage2.

Figure. A: Magnetic resonance, constructive interference in steady state 3D sequence, sagittal plane; B: Magnetic resonance, T1, sagittal plane; C: Magnetic resonance, T2, axial plane; D: Computed tomography, bone window, axial plane. The persistence of the craniopharyngeal canal (arrows in C and D), and the pituitary remnant inside (arrows in A and B). Note that the remnant of the pituitary gland is lower than usual in the nasopharyngeal roof.

References


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