

Brain: Miscellaneous

Epidermoid Cyst

Epidermoid cysts (Figure 17) are congenital lesions caused by skin cells (epidermis) that are left behind in the brain (or spine) during embryogenesis. The skin cells secrete keratin (the protein that makes hair, nails and the outer layers of skin) which slowly accumulates over time, causing pressure on the brain and irritation of the cranial nerves. Surgery to remove the cyst completely is curative.

Figure 17: MRI scan showing epidermoid cyst.

