

SEPTEMBER IS CHIARI AWARENESS MONTH

Chiari & Gender

Did you know that pediatric Chiari affects boys and girls pretty much equally; however among adults diagnosed with Chiari, women are much more affected than men? Several years ago, Conquer Chiari undertook a meta-analysis (a study of other studies) where we looked at the literature for several years and identified all studies that reported on a consecutive patients series of at least 20 patients (consecutive means the authors reported on every patient, not just those with a specific symptom, syringomyelia, etc.). In total there were nearly 1800 pediatric patients and 1750 adult patients drawn from over 20 published research articles. Among the pediatric cases the gender split was nearly identical, with females representing 49.7% of the cases. The gender breakdown for adults was dramatically different, with females accounting for 70% of all cases! The reason for the dramatic difference is not known, however the CCRC is investigating what role, if any, female hormones might play in the onset of adult symptomatic Chiari.