Long Term Recurrence of Symptoms

One of the most common questions Conquer Chiari receives is, "I had surgery a few years ago and some of my symptoms are coming back. Is this common?" For a long time, this was difficult to answer as there was no evidence beyond anecdotal reports as to how common symptom recurrence is years after surgery. However, in 2012 Klekamp reported on 359 adult surgical patients and found that 14.3% showed neurological deterioration 5 years post-op and 15.4% at the 10 year mark. The recurrence rates were significantly lower, at 7% and 8.7%, for patients who had arachnoid dissection and duraplasty as part of their surgery.

SOURCE: Surgical treatment of Chiari I malformation--analysis of intraoperative findings, complications, and outcome for 371 foramen magnum decompressions. Klekamp J. Neurosurgery. 2012 Aug;71(2):365-80

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