

## *The Neanderthal Connection*

There have been a lot of Chiari theories over the years, but did you know that some people have speculated that Chiari is a by-product of Neanderthal genes? For anthropologists, the skull base is often used to distinguish between different hominids, and the flattening that occurs in Chiari is reminiscent of the Neanderthal shape. Recent research has shown that most people have a larger percentage of Neanderthal genes than previously thought, maybe as high as 2.5%. So is it possible that the bony anatomy associated with Chiari comes from Neanderthal genes? Time will tell.

**SOURCE:** *Evolutionary hypothesis for Chiari type I malformation. Fernandes YB, Ramina R, Campos-Herrera CR, Borges G. Med Hypotheses. 2013 Oct;81(4):715-9.*