Schieferdecker et al. described the first case of a glioependymal cyst of the brainstem managed by robot-assisted, stereotactic, cystoventricular shunting. Glioependymal cysts are rare congenital cystic lesions that are thought to form by displacement of ependymal cells during the embryonal period. Glioependymal cysts have been reported in a variety of different locations within the central nervous system. However, glioependymal cysts of the brainstem have only been described once before. They reported the case of a 53-year-old man who was referred due to hemiparesis, hemihypesthesia, and hemidysesthesia, as well as facial and abducens nerve palsy. A large pontine glioependymal cyst was confirmed via magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. The cyst was subsequently decompressed by connecting the cyst with the fourth ventricle via robot-assisted stereotactic shunt placement. In the postoperative course, the patient made a quick recovery and did not report any permanent neurologic deficits [1].

1)

Schieferdecker S, Hunsche S, El Majdoub F, Maarouf M. Robot-Assisted Stereotactic Shunting as a Novel Treatment for Pontine Glioependymal Cysts. J Neurol Surg A Cent Eur Neurosurg. 2021 May 24. doi: 10.1055/s-0041-1726109. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34030189.