

Schizencephaly

Schizencephaly is a rare birth defect.

It causes slits or clefts in the [cerebral hemispheres](#) of your brain. These clefts may appear on one or both sides of your brain. They may be filled with cerebrospinal fluid.

a) sine qua non: cleft that communicates with the ventricle (communication may be confirmed with CT cisternogram if necessary)

b) cleft lined with cortical grey matter (often abnormal, may have [polymicrogyria](#)). This distinguishes it from [porencephaly](#), a cystic lesion lined with connective or glial tissue that may communicate with the ventricular system, often caused by vascular infarcts or following [intracerebral hemorrhage](#) or penetrating trauma (including repeated ventricular punctures)

c) two forms: ● open lipped: large cleft to the ventricle. Very severe forms may mimic hydranencephaly

● close-lipped (walls fused): look for a dimple in the lateral wall of the lateral ventricle immediately under the cortical cleft (the appearance of which may mimic an enlarged sulcus)

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