V

Ventricles

Randall E. Merchant
Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology,
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond,
VA, USA

Synonyms

[Cerebral ventricles](#)

Definition

The cerebral ventricular system is a set of four fluid-filled structures in the brain that communicate with each other via small-diameter channels.

Current Knowledge

The ventricular system is a set of four fluid-filled structures in the brain: the paired right and left

lateral ventricles which lie in each cerebral hemisphere, a third ventricle within the diencephalon, and a fourth ventricle in the hindbrain. The lateral ventricles are connected to the third ventricle via the interventricular foramina (of Monro), and the third ventricle communicates with the fourth ventricle via the cerebral aqueduct. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is produced by the choroid plexuses which are found in all four ventricles and flows from the ventricles into the subarachnoid space surrounding the brain and spinal cord as well as into the central canal of the cord. A blockage of the communicating channels between the ventricles will cause an abnormal accumulation of CSF within the ventricles upstream of the blockage and ventricular dilation, a condition known as hydrocephalus.

See Also

► [Hydrocephalus](#)