Anencephaly

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The 17th week formation: a, 6-week-old embryo; b, 8-week-old embryo.

The neural tube formation begins in the fourth week of gestation (Fig. 16A) from the notochordal mesenchyme. The notochordal mesenchyme invades the dorsal part of the neural tube and forms the neural crest, which gives rise to the neural crest cells. These cells migrate ventrally and give rise to the neural tube. The neural tube then develops into the neural plate, which folds to form the neural tube. The neural tube closes at the anterior and posterior ends to form the closed neural tube, which then differentiates into the brain and spinal cord. The neural tube gives rise to the brain and spinal cord, which develop into the various structures of the central nervous system.
REFERENCES

The references cited in the text include:


