Syringomyelia describes an intra-medullary cyst in the spinal cord. In the adult patient, the pathology mostly results from Chiari-I-malformation or from severe spinal trauma. The clinical picture varies broadly, but symptoms often include pain and progressive neurologic deficits. During the clinical course, muscular atrophy and loss of pain and temperature sensation may develop in the affected region. Today, magnet resonance imaging helps to detect syringomyelia at an early stage. The interdisciplinary therapeutic approach includes an adequate pain treatment and physiotherapy, in selected cases a surgical intervention by an experienced surgeon. If not treated surgically, most symptomatic patients experience progressive neurologic deficits that may lead to severe paraplegia and chronic neuropathic pain.