



Figure 27. Spectrum of common cephalic axial dysraphic malformations (or neural tube defects [NTDs]) affecting the brain in near-term (E17.5) mouse embryos. Relative to normal control littermates (N), cranial NTDs form a continuum. Encephalocele (E) presents as a small protuberance of meninges-covered cerebral cortex on the forehead or crown. Exencephaly (X) exhibits complete exposure of the cerebrum and midbrain. Anencephaly (A) is shown by a complete absence of the brain ( $\pm$  a portion of the