Oligodendroglioma

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Definition

A type of slow-growing glial tumor that arises from oligodendrocytes or their precursor cells. Oligodendrogliomas are the third most common type of adult primary intracranial tumors and comprise only a small percentage of pediatric brain tumors. It occurs mostly in middle-aged adults and is more common in men than women (about 2:1). Oligodendrogliomas are typically classified as grade II (low grade) or III (anaplastic). They are most often found in the frontal and temporal lobes. Seizures, either focal or generalized, are often the first symptoms. Patients can also present with symptoms of increased intracranial pressures and, less frequently, focal cerebral signs such as hemiparesis. Frontal lobe tumors may cause mood and personality changes, and temporal lobe tumors may result in speech and memory problems. Surgery is one of the principal treatment options, and degree of resection may affect prognosis. Chemotherapy and radiotherapy are also

frequently used as adjuvant treatments. However, in slow-growing, indolent tumors, observation may be the treatment of choice. Prognosis depends on various factors including age, tumor grade, and possibly genetic markers (Jaeckle et al. 2006).

Cross-References

- ▶ [Brain Tumor](#)
- ▶ [Glioma](#)
- ▶ [Neoplasms](#)
- ▶ [Radiotherapy](#)
- ▶ [Tumor Grade](#)

References and Readings

- Engelhard, H. H., Stelea, A., & Mundt, A. (2003). Oligodendroglioma and anaplastic oligodendroglioma: Clinical features, treatment and prognosis. *Surgical Neurology*, 60, 443–456.
- Jaeckle, K. A., Ballman, K. V., Rao, R. D., Jenkins, R. B., & Buckner, J. C. (2006). Current strategies in treatment of oligodendroglioma: Evolution of molecular signatures of response. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 24(8), 1246–1252.