

Central nervous system tumors of childhood

EDDY ESTLIN & STEPHEN LOWIS. 361 pp.
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This book is a synopsis of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology with emphasis on all aspect of this demanding specialty. The book starts with the basics, followed by detailed discussion of all major groups of pediatric brain tumor, and finally talking about the aftermath, after the treatment, and how patients' get back on track, and finally talks about how to make the transition with less suffering, and recognizing and dealing with complications. The book covers the subjects with variable details, on different subjects. The radiology section is extensive, with imaging of every brain tumor and brain tumor mimics, Also included is a good account of MR spectroscopy. This section was a detailed manuscript; you will only find it in a major Neuro-radiology or Neuro-surgery textbook, simply a great chapter. Another excellent section was the molecular understanding of tumor treatment, simple yet solid approach. As a neurosurgeon that is usually ignorant of this rather-complicated part, I certainly found it very informative. However, the neuropathology section was not at the same level of the radiology or the molecular approaches. It needed more colored slides and more organization. In short, there is room for improvement in pathology section. The surgical management section was brief, and by no means intended for surgical technique for a neurosurgeon, but it gave a bird's eye view of how we surgically manage these cases for a non-neurosurgeon reader. I think some surgical diagrams depicting

some of the surgical protocol could prove useful. The general section of treatment with both radiation and chemotherapy was also up to par, I thought both modalities were covered adequately talking about all the types of radiation and the progression of chemotherapies with a same page detailed name and year of study mentioned.

The 2nd part of the book described in detail the diagnosis, treatment options and outcome of all major tumors with emphasis on all the trials, the published ones, and the ones yet to be; again very detailed, yet simple and to the point. The final account was about complications and a palliative approach, in the same manner explained above. At the end there was miscellaneous section discussing related subjects such as functional anatomy, memory, and psychology; again in the same simple effective manner. This book is intended for pediatric oncologists, pediatric neurosurgeons and nurse practitioners that deal with neuro-oncology children. It is a good reference to keep in the library of a general practitioner who is exposed to such cases in his practice. It is also a great aid for medical students and residents interested or rotating in Pediatric-Neuro-Oncology.

In short, I am happy to add this book to my library. I truly think the author was successful in summing up all the facts in a small book; I found this book appealing and easy to read. I have no hesitation recommending this book as a supplemental source of valuable information, and apart from the above analysis, I think this book is a good buy.

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