



Brief Note on Impact of Tumors in Older Adults

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DESCRIPTION

In Older adults, mostly the tumors develop in the cerebral cortex. It is an area of the brain that has a role in memory, thought and such rational functions. In children, tumors often develop in brain stem and cerebellum. Cerebellum is near the brain stem and it affects movement and coordination. Tumor, stroke and infection are lesions that may affect the brain cerebrum. In July 2012, it was reported that cancer and stroke remain as the third and fourth leading cause of death in Malaysia (Health Facts 2012) respectively. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer and stroke have become the second and third leading cause of death worldwide after heart disease. In the United States, cancer remains the second most for common cause of death with an estimated number of deaths caused by brain cancers at about 14,320 patients a year. The estimated number of new brain cancers has increased from 17,000 in 2009 to 23,380 in 2014, while stroke affects nearly 750,000 new cases per year (American Cancer Society Report 2014). In India, malignant is the fourth major cause for death and the awareness regarding the impact of tumor on brain stroke in our country is very poor.

Brain tumors are abnormal and uncontrolled proliferations of cells. Some originate in the brain itself, in which case they are termed primary. Others spread to this location from somewhere else in the body through metastasis, and are termed secondary. In the initial stage, cancer will not spread from the brain to other regions but any tumor may become malignant or stay benign. Anyhow both the types of tumors are dangerous. The skull area is very small and as the cancer regions grow there is risk to human life. The intracranial pressure becomes high and reduces the blood flow to brain regions and this situation causes edema, i.e. finally making the normal tissues to stop their

functions and causing degeneration of cells. Brain tumors are, in fact, the second leading cause of cancer related deaths in children and older adults.

CONCLUSION

According to the Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States (CBTRUS), there would be 64,530 new cases of primary brain and central nervous system tumors diagnosed in elderly by the end of 2011. Overall more than 600,000 people currently live with the disease. The tumors in brain are categorized into primary and secondary brain tumors. The primary brain tumor is benign which contains slow growing abnormal cells. The tumor in this stage can be treated by taking proper medication at a regular interval. The untreated primary brain tumors become secondary brain tumors. The secondary brain tumor is called as malignant which contains abrupt growing abnormal cells.

The tumor in this stage cannot be controlled by medication and surgery and hence radiation treatment is preferred to the patient who is having malignant brain tumor. The abnormal cells in the brain region are removed by surgery and it requires lot of medicine after the surgery process is over. A brain tumor is an abnormal growth of tissue in the brain. Tumors occurring in brain are unusual and spread from one cell to another within the brain region itself and do not spread to the other parts of the body. In brain, tumor cells multiply extensively for unknown reasons. Glioma tumors are defined as those initializing from the glial tissues which are functioning as communicative tissues between brain and other body parts. Glioma is a primary tumor, which can start as benign and become malignant, whereas, the other types such as mixed gliomas, ependymomas, Astrocytomas, are also may occur.

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