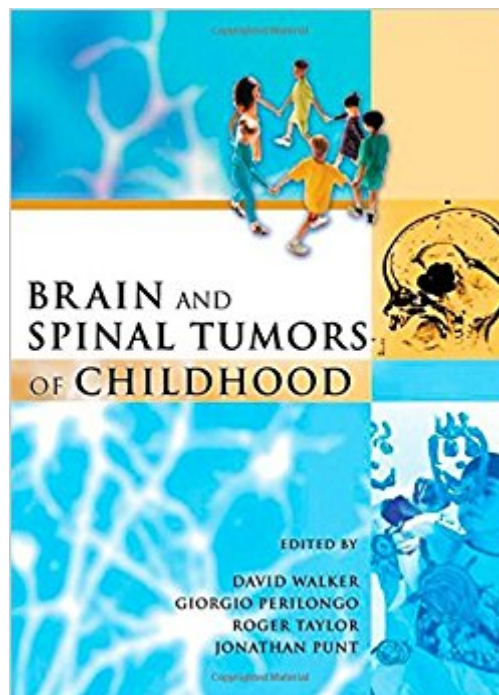




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Brain And Spinal Tumors Of Childhood (Hodder Arnold Publication)



Synopsis

Children with brain and spinal tumors account for 20-25% of childhood cancers. Until the early 1990s there had been little progress in the development of new treatments, and outcomes were not improving despite advances seen in other childhood cancers. During the past 10 years, however, there has been a dramatic increase in interest in the subject among pediatric specialists worldwide, and new multi-disciplinary teams have become established. There are encouraging early signs of improvement in outcomes, and more are anticipated. The appearance of this comprehensive, but practical, evidence-based review of brain and spinal tumors in children is therefore very timely. The content includes detailed coverage of the diagnosis, clinical management, after care and monitoring, and underlying biology of brain and spinal tumors in children. International in approach, it draws on the experience of the European Childhood Brain Tumour Committee, linked to the International Society of Paediatric Oncology, and various multi-centre clinical trials to reflect the various approaches to management that have arisen around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the second textbook in recent years to provide a comprehensive assessment of the evolving field of pediatric neuro-oncology. Before the publication of this book and Tumors of the Pediatric Central Nervous System (R.F. Keating, et al. Stuttgart, Germany: Thieme, 2001), there had not been an inclusive review of this topic since the early 1990s. In contrast to Tumors of the Pediatric

Central Nervous System, whose editors reside in the United States (along with most of the authors), *Brain and Spinal Tumors of Childhood* is edited and largely authored by experts from outside the United States. For this reason, it offers a more international perspective on the field. The book is divided into six major sections. In addition to the anticipated chapters on the major neuro-oncologic diagnoses of childhood, there are sections on epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment planning, treatment techniques, late sequelae, and supportive care. Chapter 2, which gives a brief time line and pictorial presentation highlighting the historical basis of neuro-oncology, is unusual. The chapter goes as far back as the period from 2500 to 1600 b.c., during which time two papyrus documents discussed surgical and "magical treatments for cancer" (which some might argue are not so far afield from some current treatments), and then nicely chronicles the pace of progress during the past two centuries. On balance, the book is well edited. A few chapters (e.g., chapter 11 on neuropsychological outcomes, which is sandwiched between radiotherapy techniques and drug delivery) seem misplaced. There are no glaring omissions of content, and the perspective is as current as modern publishing allows. One editing feature that could have been improved on is the presentation of certain topics in boxed text throughout the book. The content appears somewhat random, including definitions, treatment recommendations, clinical vignettes, and information on staging. Most of this content is incorporated into the surrounding text and does little to further educate the reader. In the introduction, the editors (perhaps at the behest of the publisher) anticipate a wide readership encompassing all the subspecialties, as well as generalists and others involved in the care of children with brain tumors. As is often the case, the book seems ideal for the trainee beginning an exploration of this topic or for a colleague whose focus is not within pediatric neuro-oncology but who is looking for a more comprehensive overview than is available elsewhere. For myself, I will place this book on the shelf next to *Tumors of the Pediatric Central Nervous System* so that when my colleagues stop by, they will be impressed that my chosen subspecialty (a choice that many of them will never quite understand) warrants multiple up-to-date textbooks on the topic. Kenneth J. Cohen, M.D. Copyright © 2005 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved. The New England Journal of Medicine is a registered trademark of the MMS.

... an excellent reference book for all practitioners at any level in neurology, neurosurgery and oncology... [it] has many unique features, which make it a 'must have' textbook for all who care for children with CNS tumours. *British Journal of Cancer* In the introduction to this excellent book a stated aim is 'to further develop neuro-oncology paediatric practise and facilitate service development' . Certainly in the UK the driving force of Clinical Governance quite correctly focuses

clinicians' minds to the provision of gold standard care, I feel this book contributes greatly in laying down 'the mark' in the definition of such a standard in paediatric neuro-oncology. This book set out to develop the sub-speciality of paediatric neuro-oncology. It is an immense achievement to bring together the list of eminent contributors to a single coherent readable text. The editors have certainly achieved their original aim and I have no reservation in recommending this text as a valuable aid to all involved in the multidisciplinary care of children with brain and spinal tumours. *Clinical Oncology* 17:204 The last word of the editors of this most enjoyable book says that 'paediatric neuro-oncology is an expanding and specialised that needed a new book. A better book? Well we are already working on it.' We are looking forward to reading another new contribution of the same quality from such an experienced group of authors. *European Neurology*

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