

Extent of Resection and Survival in Glioblastoma Multiforme

Essay

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قالوا

سبحانك لا علم لنا
إلا ما علمتنا إنك أنت
العليم العظيم

صدق الله العظيم

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Contents

List of Abbreviations	i
List of Tables	iv
List of Figures	v
Introduction and Aim of the Work.....	1
Anatomy	5
Histology	11
Pathology	15
Glioblastoma	19
Clinical Manifestations of Glioblastoma	31
Investigations	32
Treatment	40
Surgery	44
Novel Tools Aid Surgical Resection of Glioblastoma	73
Radiation Therapy	76
Chemotherapy	78
Immunotherapy	80
Gene Therapy	81
Prognosis	83
Recurrent Glioblastoma	91
Summary	111
References	113
Arabic Summary	--

List of Abbreviations

AA	: Anaplastic astrocytoma
ACA	: Anterior cerebral artery
ADC	: Apparent diffusion coefficient
AIDS	: Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ALA-5	: 5-Aminolevulinic acid
AVM	: Arteriovenous malformations
BBB	: Blood brain barrier
BBTB	: Blood brain tumor barrier
BCNU	: Bischloroethylnitrosourea
BIS	: Bispectral index
BNCT	: Boron neutron capture therapy
BOLD	: Blood oxygen level dependent
BTSC	: Brain tumor stem cells
CC	: Corpus callosum
CECT	: Contrast enhanced computerized tomography
CNS	: Central nervous system
CSF	: Cerebrospinal fluid
CTL	: Cytotoxic T lymphocyte
DSA	: Digital subtraction angiography
DTI	: Diffusion tensor imaging
DTI	: Diffusion tensor imaging
DWI	: Diffusion-weighted imaging
EOR	: Extent of resection
FasL	: Fas ligand
FIGS	: Fluorescence image guided surgical resection
fMRI	: Functional magnetic resonance imaging
GBM	: Glioblastoma multiform
GFAP	: Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein
GTR	: Gross total resection
HGGs	: High grade gliomas
HLA	: Human leukocyte antigen
HPD	: Haematoporphyrin derivative

List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

HSV-1	: Herpes simplex virus-1
ICP	: Intracranial pressure
IDH1	: Isocitrate dehydrogenase 1
iMRI	: Intraoperative MRI
IMRT	: Intensity modulated radiation therapy
IORT	: Intraoperative radiation
KPS	: Karnofsky Performance Status Scale
MCA	: Middle cerebral artery
MGMT	: O6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase
MRS	: Magnetic resonance spectroscopy
NAA	: N-acetyl aspartate
NECT	: Non enhanced computerized tomography
NF1	: Neurofibromatosis type 1
NF2	: Neurofibromatosis type 2
NSC	: Neural stem cells
NTR	: Near-total resection
PCA	: Posterior cerebral artery
PDGFRA	: Platelet-derived growth factor receptor
PDT	: Photodynamic treatment
PET	: Positron emission tomography
PNET	: Primitive neuroectodermal tumor
PNS	: Peripheral nervous system
PTEN	: Phosphatase and tensin homologue from chromosome 10
rCBV	: Relative cerebral blood volume
RT	: Radiation therapy
SRS	: Stereotactic radiosurgery
STR	: Subtotal resection
TCGA	: The Cancer Genome Atlas
TGF- β 2	: Transforming growth factor
TMZ	: Temozolomide

List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

TP53	:	Tumor protein
VEGF	:	Vascular endothelial growth factor
WHO	:	World Health Organization

List of tables

<i>Table</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Astrocytic tumors	18
2	Karnofsky Performance Score for Brain Tumor Patients	85
3	Extent of Resection of glioblastoma in Selected Volumetric and Nonvolumetric Studies in the Neurosurgical Literature	88

List of Figures

<i>Fig.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Cerebral hemispheres: dorsolateral view	7
2	Cerebral hemispheres: inferior view with brain stem	7
3	Cerebral hemispheres: MRI. Sagittal view	8
4	Spinal cord: longitudinal view	10
5	Nervous system: neurons and glial cells	11
6	Forms of astrocytes. A. Protoplasmic astrocytes. B. Fibrillary astrocytes C. Positive immunostaining for glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)	14
7	Glioblastoma. a. A grayish, firm, relatively circumscribed tumorous infiltration obscures the temporalconvolutions. b. On transverse section, the tumor contains fresh hemorrhages and viable tumor in the cortex. d. A large glioblastoma is situated in the left posterior temporal lobe, extending into the right temporal lobe across the splenium in a butterfly pattern. It consists of grayish viable tumor and extensive yellow necrotic areas intermixed with old and recent hemorrhages	22
8	Pathological Features of Glioblastoma. Panels A and B show the histologic appearance of a glioblastoma, characterized by nuclear pleomorphism, dense cellularity, and pseudopalisading necrosis (asterisk) as well as vascular endothelial proliferation (asterisk) and mitotic figures (arrows)	23

List of Figures (Cont.)

<i>Fig.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
9	Patterns of glioblastomas dissemination. (a) Axial post-contrast T1-weighted image shows extension of a glioblastoma through the splenium of the corpus callosum (butterfly glioma). (b) Axial T1-weighted images shows subependymal spread of glioblastoma (arrow). (c) Right parasagittal postcontrast T1-weighted image shows a parietal lesion with strong enhancement and peripheral edema. In the right temporal lobe a second separate enhanced lesion is seen. Autopsy proved a multicentric glioblastoma. (d) Axial T1-weighted images show a glioblastoma with satellite-enhanced nodules. Note the spread across the ependyma. Biopsy proved a multifocal glioblastoma	30
10	(a) Unenhanced CT shows a low density, right temporoparietal mass with ill-defined borders. (b) Postenhanced CT shows an irregular ring-like enhancement of the mass with central necrosis	33

List of Figures (Cont.)

<i>Fig.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
11	Glioblastoma. Postcontrast T1WI shows a space-occupying and inhomogeneously enhanced mass involving the corpus callosum (a) with increased diffusion (b) and low corresponding ADC (c). The fractional anisotropy color coded map (d) shows reduction of the FA values (<i>arrow</i>), while the tractography (e) demonstrates displacement and destruction of the white matter tracts. Perfusion color coded map (f) demonstrates increased rCBV	37
12	Glioblastoma multiforme. (a,b) Cho:Cr and Cho: NAA maps demonstrate significantly elevated ratios (Cho:Cr 8:06 and Cho:NAA 15:3)	38
13	Neoplasms and tumor like lesion	39
14	Bifrontal approach	54
15	Middle frontal approach	54
16	Frontotemporal (pterional) approach	55
17	Frontotemporal (extended temporal) approach	56
18	Temporal approach	57
19	Posterior frontal-parietal (vertex) approach	58
20	Occipital approach	59
21	Temporal suboccipital approach	60
22	Suboccipital (lateral) approach	61
23	Suboccipital (far lateral) approach	61

List of Figures (Cont.)

<i>Fig.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
24	<p>The tumor zone model. a Conceptual framework depicting the heterogeneity of malignant gliomas is encapsulated in a model classifying gliomas into three distinct tumor zones (TZs). TZ I consists of the main tumor bulk. TZ II represents tumor microenvironment or zone of perifocal oedema. TZ III represents macroscopically healthy brain parenchyma. Microglial cells accumulate most frequently in TZ II, although they can also be identified in TZs I and III. b TZs in the context of an actual tumor. Imaging using white-light microscopy (left panel) does not enable differentiation of the individual zones. Imaging of vascularization by use of indocyanine green fluorescence (right panel) enables visualization of areas of hypervascularization (representing TZ II) that border TZ I and III. c Model of the relationship between tumor cell mass and survival time. Tumor growth kinetics during the undetected preclinical phase and following neuro-oncological therapy. A tumor load of 10¹⁰ cells leads to clinical symptoms, even if the tumor is located in a functionally silent area of the brain. An increase in tumor load to >10¹¹ cells is incompatible with life. Abbreviations: CT, chemotherapy; OP, operation; RT, radiotherapy</p>	71

List of Figures (Cont.)

<i>Fig.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
25	Assessment of multimodality treatment on survival of patients with glioblastoma at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, all of whom underwent surgical resection. The mean survival of patients treated with just radiation therapy after tumor resection was 9 months ($n = 147$ patients). Combination treatment with radiation therapy and intraoperative Gliadel placement increased mean patient survival to 13 months after surgical resection ($n = 45$). Treatment of patients with the radiation therapy and temozolomide ⁹ further increased mean survival to 15 months ($n = 52$). Finally, multimodality treatment involving radiation therapy, temozolomide, and intraoperative placement of Gliadel resulted in the longest mean survival time of 20 months ($n = 32$)	90
26	Recurrent glioma. Decisions in the management of a recurrent tumor should consider grade, resectability, and prior therapy. CTx, chemotherapy; focal rad/boost, stereotactic radiosurgery, brachytherapy, or radiotherapy; N, neurologic; reg rad, regional fractionated radiation therapy; small focal, less than 10cm ³ , radiographically demarcated	100

Introduction

Glioblastoma is a cancerous brain tumor thought to be developed from astrocytes. It is both the most common and the most aggressive malignant primary central nervous system (CNS) tumor in adult. ⁽¹⁾

The aetiology of glioblastoma is still not well understood. Most glioblastoma tumors appear to be sporadic, without any genetic predisposition. Glioblastomas can be subdivided into primary and secondary glioblastomas. Primary glioblastomas occur de-novo without preceding lower grade astrocytomas. They tend to occur in older individuals. Secondary glioblastomas arise as malignant degeneration of lower grade tumors. They occur in younger individuals.

Histopathologically, glioblastomas are diffuse intra-axial brain tumors largely made up of neoplastic cells resembling primitive astrocytes. According to WHO classification; glioblastomas are grade IV.

The symptomatic presentation of glioblastoma can be divided into two coexistent categories:

1. Non-specific symptoms of elevated intracranial pressure (ICP) which include headache, drowsiness, visual obscurations, nausea, vomiting, nuchal rigidity, papilledema, and occasionally 6th nerve palsy.
2. Site-specific symptoms vary by tumor location and include motor, sensory, visual, language, and speech disturbances, seizures. Hearing and gait abnormalities may also be seen. ⁽²⁾

Definitive diagnosis of a suspected glioblastomas on CT or MRI requires a stereotactic biopsy or a craniotomy with tumor resection and pathologic confirmation. Treatment

requires effective teamwork from neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists, radiation oncologists, physician assistants, social workers, psychologists, and nurses. A supportive family environment is also helpful. The key reason for the lack of successful therapy is the infiltration of single tumor cells into the surrounding brain parenchyma cells, preventing complete glioblastoma resection.

The treatment of glioblastoma can be subdivided into:

(1) Symptomatic therapy:

- **Corticosteroids:** usually dexamethasone can reduce peritumoral edema, diminishing mass effect and lowering intracranial pressure, with a decrease in headache or drowsiness.
- **Antiepileptic drugs:** historically, around 90% of patients with glioblastoma underwent anticonvulsant treatment, although it has been estimated that only approximately 40% of patients required this treatment.⁽³⁾

(2) Palliative therapy:

Palliative treatment usually is conducted to improve quality of life and to achieve a longer survival time. It includes surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and other novel therapies. Gross total resection of tumor is associated with a better prognosis.⁽⁴⁾

Surgery

Surgery is the first stage of treatment of glioblastoma. The greater the extent of tumor removal, the better. Removal of 98% or more of the tumor has been associated with a significantly longer healthier time than if less than 98% of the tumor is removed.⁽⁵⁾