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Neuro-Oncology in Women: Clinical Considerations

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Abstract

Sex differences play a large role in oncology. It has long been discussed that the incidence of different types of tumors varies by sex, and this holds in neuro-oncology. There are also profound survival sex differences, biologic factors, and treatment effects. This review aims to summarize some of the main sex differences observed in primary brain tumors and goes on to focus specifically on gliomas and meningiomas, as these are two commonly encountered primary brain tumors in clinical practice. Additionally, considerations unique to female individuals, including pregnancy and breastfeeding, are explored. This review sheds light on many of the unique attributes that must be considered when diagnosing and treating female patients with primary brain tumors in clinical practice.

Keywords: Glioma; Meningioma; Oncology.

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1 di 1 17/04/2023, 10:30