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Chronic Neurological Complications of Brain Tumors and Brain Tumor Treatments

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Abstract

Purpose of review: Chronic complications of brain tumors and brain tumor treatments can lead to impairment of health-related quality of life and decreased functionality. These largely include cognitive decline, fatigue, headache, seizures, and secondary malignancies. Outpatient neurologists are an integral part of the multidisciplinary neuro-oncology team who help diagnose and manage chronic complications in this complex patient population. Timely diagnosis and treatment of these complications in outpatient neurology and neuro-oncology clinics helps improve quality of life and survival of brain tumor patients.

Recent findings: We discuss updated information and management regarding various chronic neurologic complications among neuro-oncology patients. Understanding of chronic neurologic complications associated with central nervous system tumors and with common contemporary cancer treatments will facilitate neurologists management of these patient populations. While there are aspects analogous to the diagnosis and management in the non-oncologic population, a number of unique features discussed in this review should be considered.

Keywords: Brain Metastases; Brain Tumors; Immunotherapies; Neurotoxicity.

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