

# Tumors of the Central Nervous System

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# Central nervous system tumors

According to the 2016 MoH Cancer Incidence Report CNS tumors are the 10<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in Jordan

But the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common cancer among Jordanian children (20% of all pediatric tumors)

CNS tumors include intracranial and intraspinal tumors.



# Unique features of the Nervous system tumors

**Metastasis**  
More common than primary brain tumor, which rarely metastasize

01

**Anatomical location**  
Influence outcome *independent* of histologic classification due to local effects.

02

**Precursors**  
No morphologically evident premalignant or in situ stages like carcinomas.

03

**Pattern**  
Tumors with low grade histologic features can infiltrate widely → serious clinical deficits

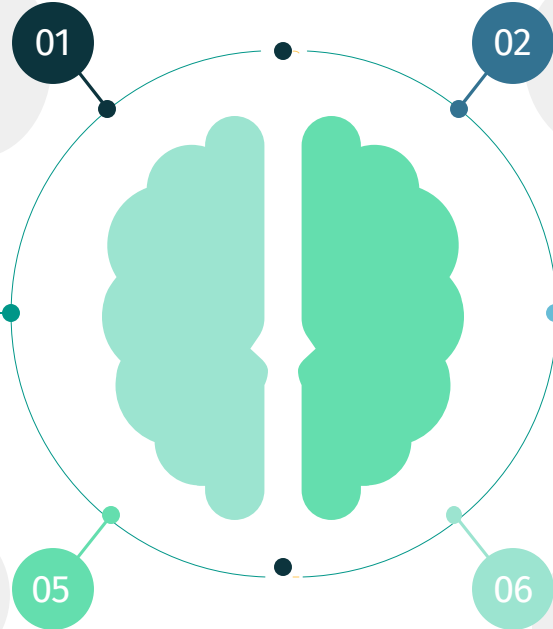
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**In Children**  
~70% of CNS tumors arise in posterior fossa

05

**In adults**  
~70% of CNS tumors arise above the tentorium.

06



# WHO Classification of Tumors of the CNS

01

WHO Classification of Tumors series are authoritative reference books for the histological & molecular classification of tumors.

**Classification** of tumors of the CNS has been based on the concept of “histogenesis” & **Grading** on the basis of histologic criteria to predict tumors behavior.

02

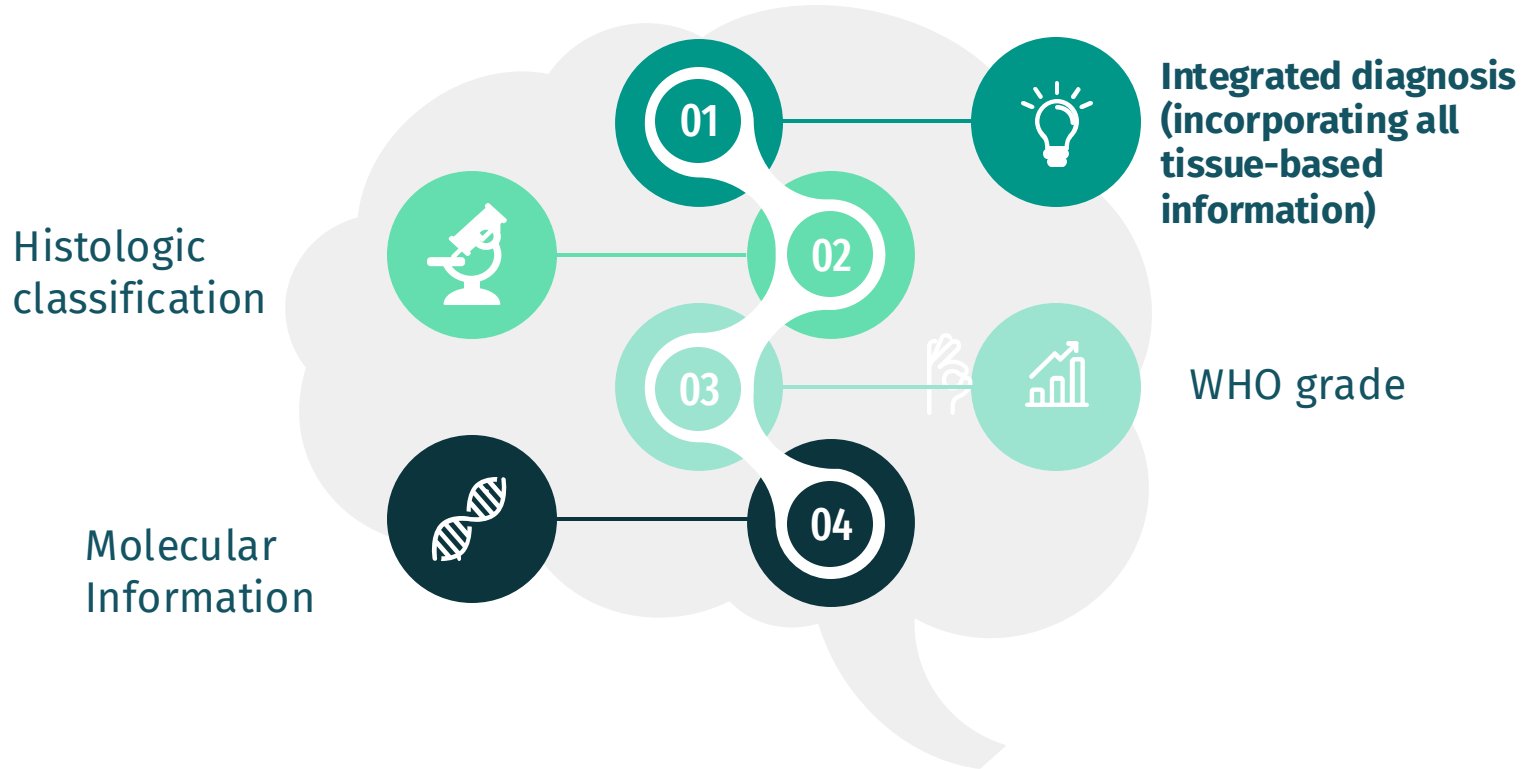
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2000 & 2007 classifications considered histological features and genetic changes that underlie the tumorigenesis. (Genetics were **supplementary** information )

The 2016 CNS WHO presents major restructuring of the diffuse gliomas, medulloblastomas & other embryonal tumors, defining tumors by both histology & molecular features

04

# 2016 WHO Classification of Tumors of the CNS



# Main histologic category (cell of origin)



01

**Gliomas:** long been classified as astrocytomas, oligodendrogliomas, and ependymomas

02

**Neuronal tumors:** composed of cells with neuronal characteristics

03

**Embryonal (Primitive) neoplasms:** have “small round cell” appearance reminiscent of normal progenitor cells in the developing CNS.

04

**Others:** Lymphoma, meningioma, germ cell tumors, metastasis

# Gliomas

01

The most common primary tumor of the brain

They arise from a progenitor cell(not mature) that differentiates down one of the cellular lineages.

02

03

Many subtypes typically occur in certain anatomic regions, with characteristic age distribution & clinical course.

# Gliomas

- Highlights of WHO 2021 classification is the incorporation of molecular features, specifically IDH gene mutations and deletion on chromosomes segments 1p/19q
  - Simplified classification of **adult** type **diffuse** gliomas into 3 groups:
    1. Astrocytoma, IDH mutant, WHO grade 2 - 4
    2. Glioblastoma, IDH wildtype, WHO grade 4
    3. Oligodendroglioma, IDH mutant and 1p / 19q co-deleted, WHO grade 2 - 3
- #Localized astrocytomas; of which the most common are the pilocytic astrocytomas.**



# Isocitrate Dehydrogenase Mutations/IDH1 and IDH2

2007

## TUMOURS OF NEUROEPITHELIAL TISSUE

### Astrocytic tumours

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Pilocytic astrocytoma               | 9421/1 <sup>1</sup> |
| Piloxyoid astrocytoma               | 9425/3*             |
| Subependymal giant cell astrocytoma | 9384/1              |
| Pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma       | 9424/3              |
| Diffuse astrocytoma                 | 9400/3              |
| Fibrillary astrocytoma              | 9420/3              |
| Gemistocytic astrocytoma            | 9411/3              |
| Protoplasmic astrocytoma            | 9410/3              |
| Anaplastic astrocytoma              | 9401/3              |
| Glioblastoma                        | 9440/3              |
| Giant cell glioblastoma             | 9441/3              |
| Gliosarcoma                         | 9442/3              |
| Gliomatosis cerebri                 | 9381/3              |

### Oligodendroglial tumours

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Oligodendroglioma            | 9450/3 |
| Anaplastic oligodendroglioma | 9451/3 |

### Oligoastrocytic tumours

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Oligoastrocytoma            | 9382/3 |
| Anaplastic oligoastrocytoma | 9382/3 |

2016

### Diffuse astrocytic and oligodendroglial tumours

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Diffuse astrocytoma, IDH-mutant                                  | 9400/3  |
| Gemistocytic astrocytoma, IDH-mutant                             | 9411/3  |
| <i>Diffuse astrocytoma, IDH-wildtype</i>                         | 9400/3  |
| Diffuse astrocytoma, NOS   | 9400/3  |
| <br>   |         |
| Anaplastic astrocytoma, IDH-mutant                               | 9401/3  |
| <i>Anaplastic astrocytoma, IDH-wildtype</i>                      | 9401/3  |
| Anaplastic astrocytoma, NOS                                      | 9401/3  |
| <br>   |         |
| Glioblastoma, IDH-wildtype                                       | 9440/3  |
| Giant cell glioblastoma  | 9441/3  |
| Gliosarcoma  | 9442/3  |
| <i>Epithelioid glioblastoma</i>                                  | 9440/3  |
| Glioblastoma, IDH-mutant   | 9445/3* |
| Glioblastoma, NOS  | 9440/3  |
| <br>   |         |
| Diffuse midline glioma, H3 K27M-mutant                           | 9385/3* |
| <br>   |         |
| Oligodendroglioma, IDH-mutant and<br>1p/19q-codeleted            | 9450/3  |
| Oligodendroglioma, NOS   | 9450/3  |
| <br>   |         |
| Anaplastic oligodendroglioma, IDH-mutant<br>and 1p/19q-codeleted | 9451/3  |
| <i>Anaplastic oligodendroglioma, NOS</i>                         | 9451/3  |

# Isocitrate Dehydrogenase Mutations/IDH1 and IDH2



## Where?

Astrocytoma, glioblastoma and oligodendrogliomas



## Function

lead to increased production of 2-hydroxyglutarate → interferes with the activity of several enzymes that regulate gene expression



## Importance

In diagnosis & prognosis (significantly better prognosis than tumor with IDH-wild type)



## Testing

Immunohistochemistry for IDH1  
DNA sequencing for IDH1 and IDH2

# Astrocytoma, IDH mutant, WHO grade 2 - 4

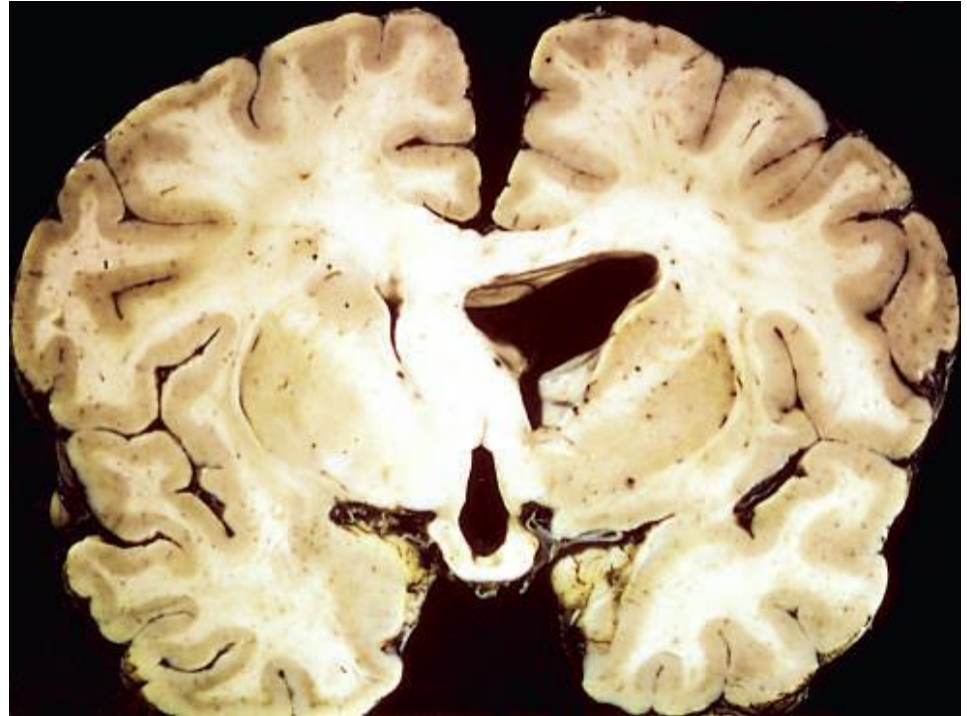
- Arise from astrocytes
- Most frequent in 30s-50s.
- Usually found in the cerebral hemispheres.
- Signs & symptoms: seizures, headaches, & focal neurologic deficits related to the anatomic site of involvement.

# Astrocytoma, IDH mutant, WHO grade 2 - 4

- **On the basis of histologic and molecular features, they are stratified into three groups (WHO grade).**
- No WHO grade 1 for infiltrating astrocytomas.
- These grade correlates well with the clinical course & outcome (prognosis).
- Pathogenesis: - As the name indicate, driver mutations in isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) gene 1 or, less frequently IDH2.
  - Inactivating mutation in p53 and ATRX genes

## WHO grade II and III

- Poorly defined, gray, infiltrative (beyond grossly evident margins) tumors that expand & distort the invaded brain **without** forming a discrete mass.

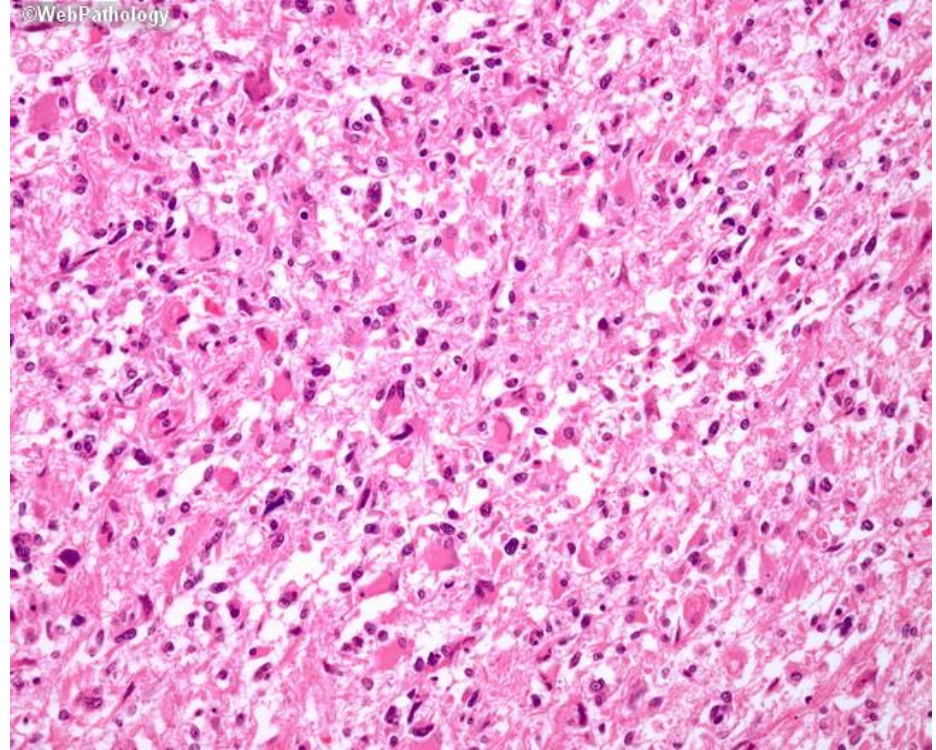
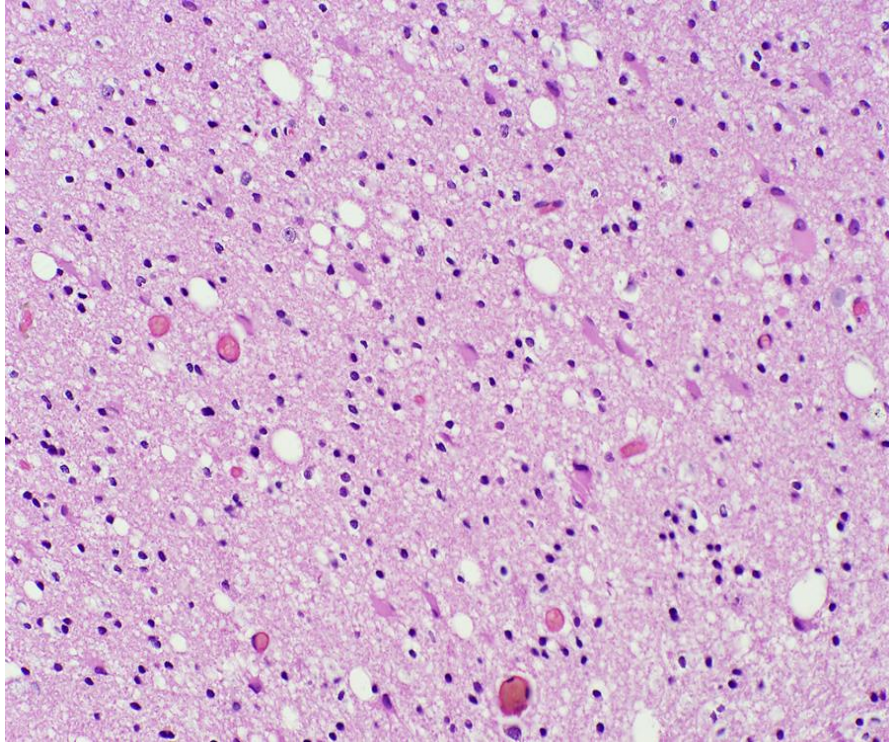


## astrocytoma (WHO grade 2) - microscopic

- low-grade (WHO grade II) astrocytomas are characterized by a mild to moderate increase in the number of glial cell nuclei, some what variable nuclear pleomorphism.
- Notice how the margin is not distinct between the tumor & the normal adjacent brain at the right



**astrocytoma WHO 2 vs WHO 3 – Microscopic:** grade 3 shows more densely cellular & have greater nuclear pleomorphism; more mitotic figures.



# ***IDH-mutant astrocytoma - Clinical***

- can be static for several years.
- The mean survival is more than 5 years
- Clinical deterioration invariably occurs and is usually due to the emergence of a more rapidly growing tumor of higher histologic grade.
- Median overall survival
  - > 10 years, grade 2
  - - 5-10 years, grade 3
  - 3 years, grade 4



# Glioblastoma *IDH*-wild-type (WHO grade 4)

- The most common malignant glioma, 50% of adult gliomas.
- They arise originally grade 4 (previously: **primary** glioblastoma).
- Previously called glioblastoma multiforme (GBM)
- Very poor prognosis.

# Glioblastoma *IDH*-wild-type - Pathogenesis

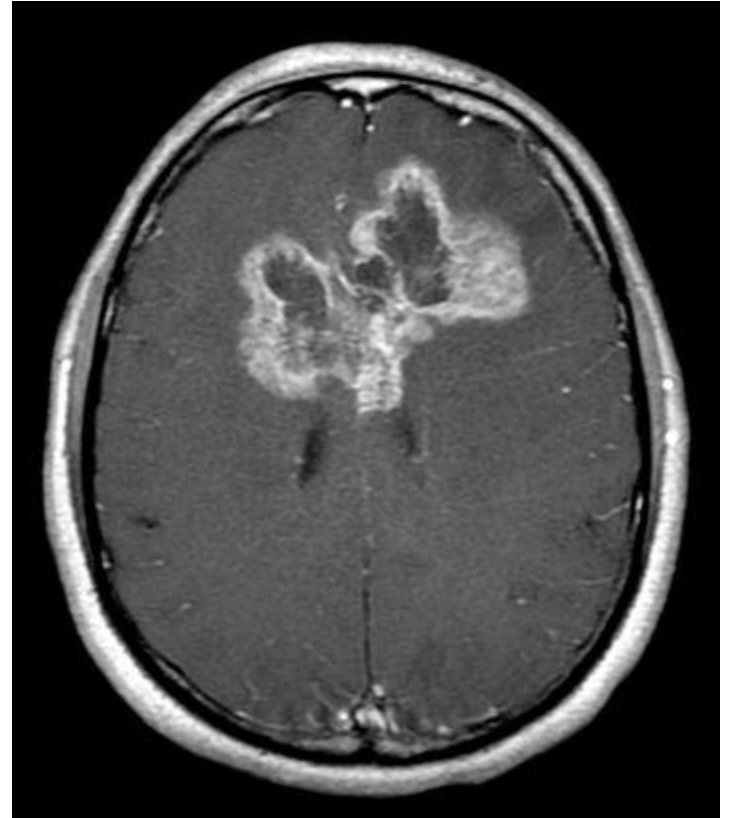
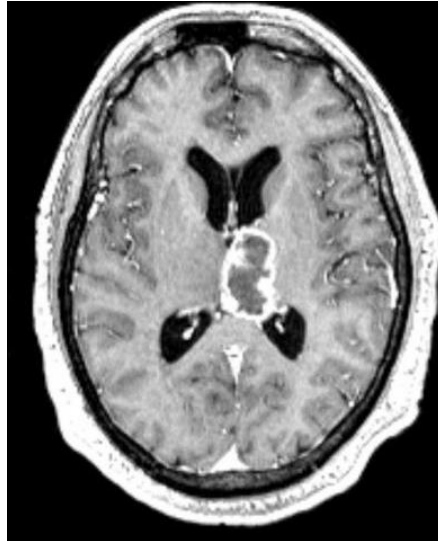
- Harbor multiple genetic alterations → acquisition of cancer hallmarks
  - a) Evasion of senescence (telomerase mutations or mutations that lengthen of telomeres)
  - b) Escape normal growth controls (biallelic deletion of *CDKN2A*, which encodes the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p16)
  - c) Activation of growth factor signaling pathways (*EGFR* or *PDGFR* gene amplification).
  - d) Resistance to apoptosis (*TP53* mutation).

# Glioblastoma *IDH*-wild-type - Clinical

- Affects older patients in their 6th to 8th decades of life.
- Sites: cerebral hemispheres (temporal, parietal, and frontal lobes; basal ganglia and thalamus).
- Develop rapidly, most patients presenting with seizures, neurocognitive impairments, nausea, vomiting, & occasionally severe pulsating headache.
- Butterfly glioma: Rapid infiltration of the corpus callosum with subsequent growth in the contralateral hemisphere → a bilateral symmetrical lesion
- Prognosis is **very poor**; even with treatment (resection, radiotherapy, and chemo-therapy), the median survival is only about **15 to 18** months

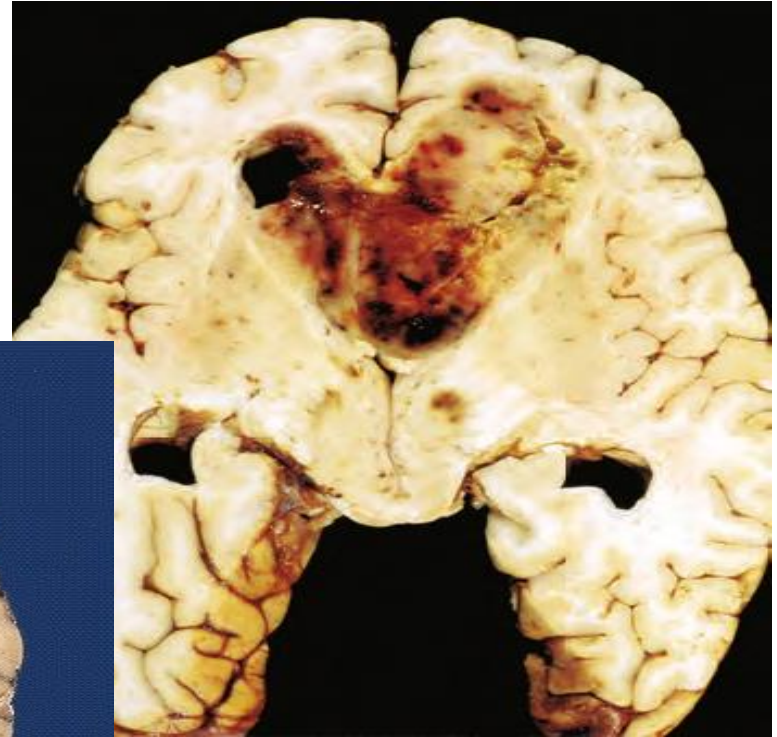
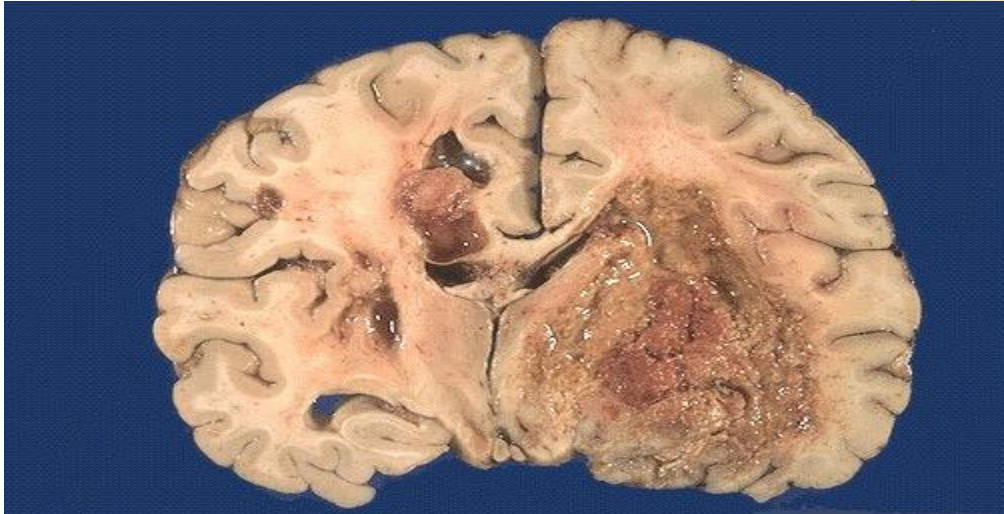
# Glioblastoma (WHO grade IV) - MRI

- Imaging studies most often reveal a ring-enhancing lesion, abnormal vessels that are “leaky,” + abnormally permeable blood-brain barrier (BBB) → contrast enhancement on imaging studies.



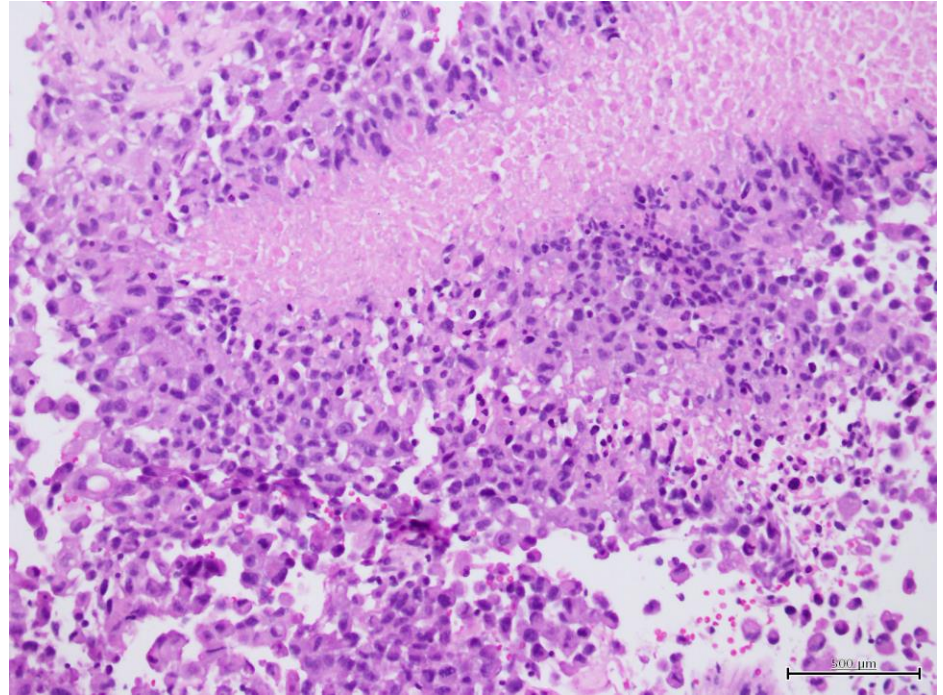
# Glioblastoma (WHO grade 4) - Gross

- Characteristic variation from adjacent normal area.
- Soft & yellow (tissue necrosis), regions of cystic degeneration & hemorrhage.



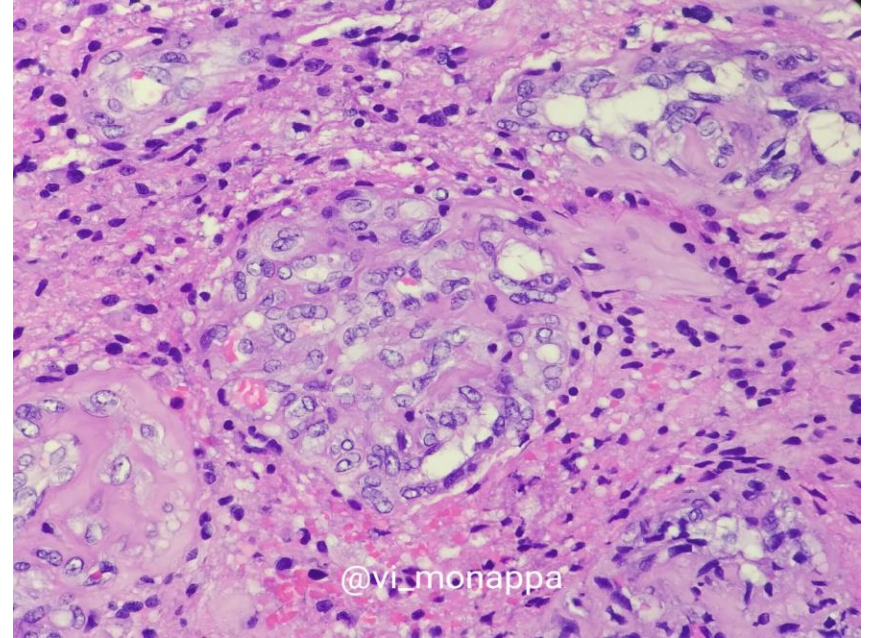
# Glioblastoma (WHO grade 4) - Microscopic

- Histologic appearance varies widely (hence: multiforme).
- Cellular features similar to that of astrocytoma – grade 4 , **as well as either:**
  1. **Necrosis** (commonly present as wavy bands of necrosis with palisaded tumor cells along the border)
  2. or **Microvascular proliferation**



# Glioblastoma (WHO grade IV) - Microscopic

2. or Microvascular proliferation ( forming tufts that bulge into the lumen → ball-like structures “glomeruloid” bodies )



# Oligodendroglioma

## Age

30s-40s  
5% to 15% of gliomas

01

## Location

In the cerebral hemispheres , mainly in **white matter** in frontal or temporal lobes.

02

## Genetics

- IDH1/IDH2 mutations
- 1p and 19q co-deletions

03

## Gross

Infiltrative tumors, form gelatinous, gray masses & may show **cysts, focal hemorrhage, & calcification.**

04

## WHO grading (2 & 3)

grade 3 is a more aggressive, higher cellularity, nuclear anaplasia, more mitoses, & microvascular proliferation.

05

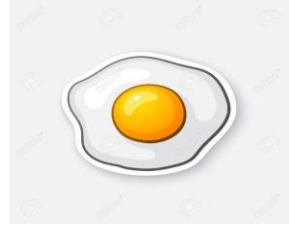
## Prognosis

+ Best prognosis among diffuse gliomas.  
+ surgery, chemo,& radio  
average survival of 5 to 10 years

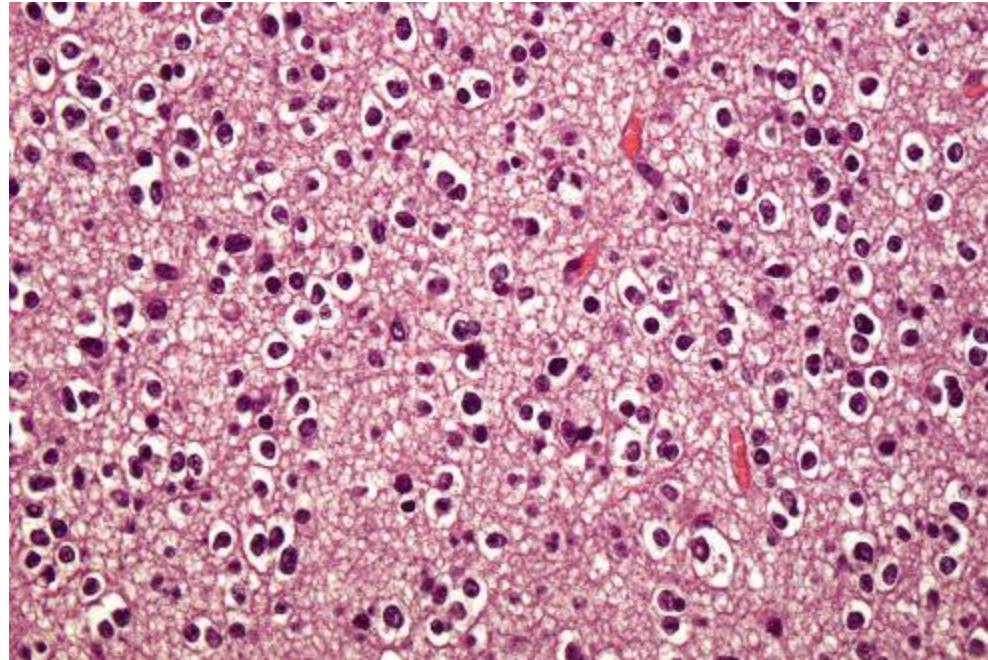
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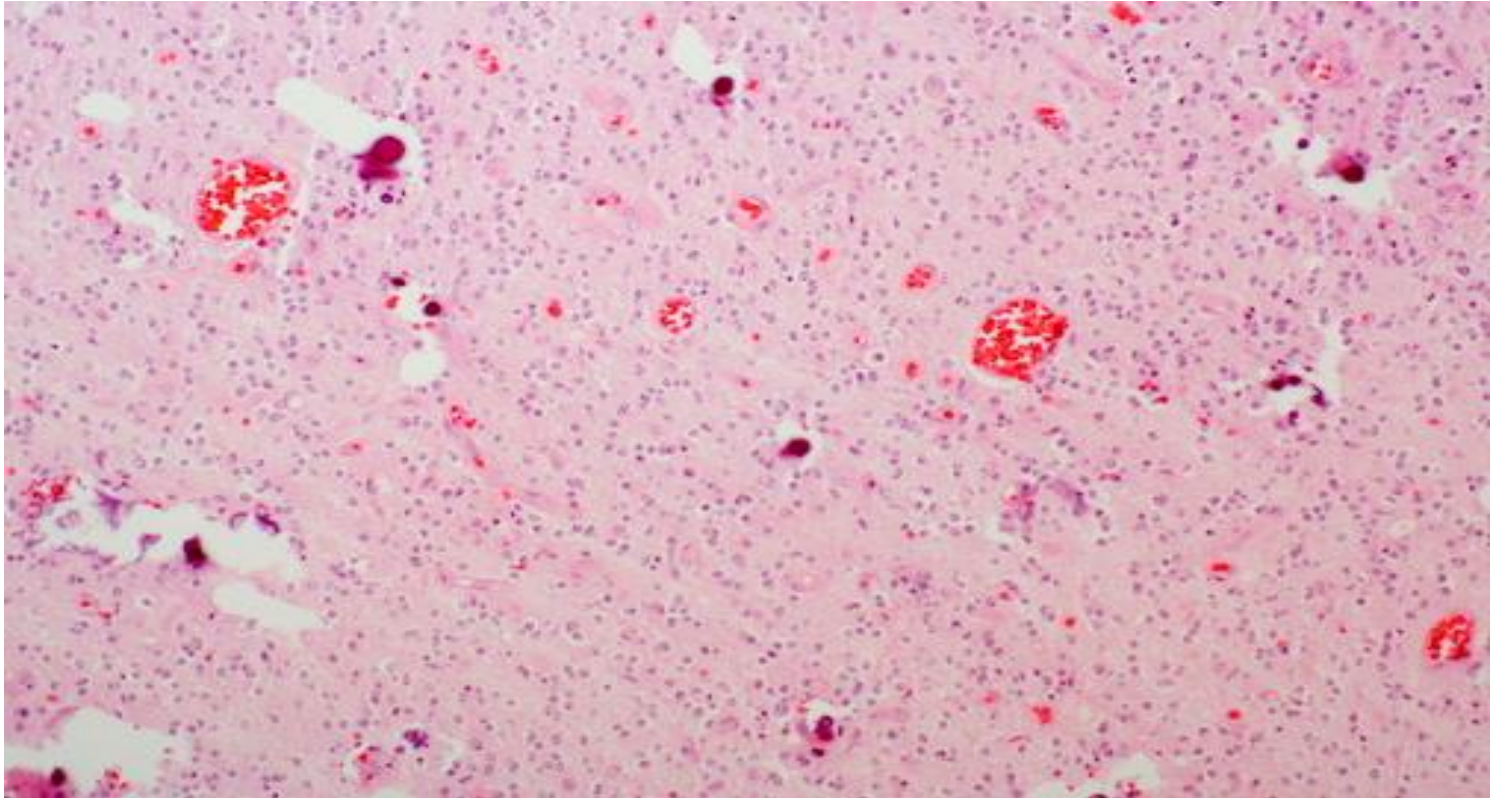
# Oligodendroglioma - microscopic



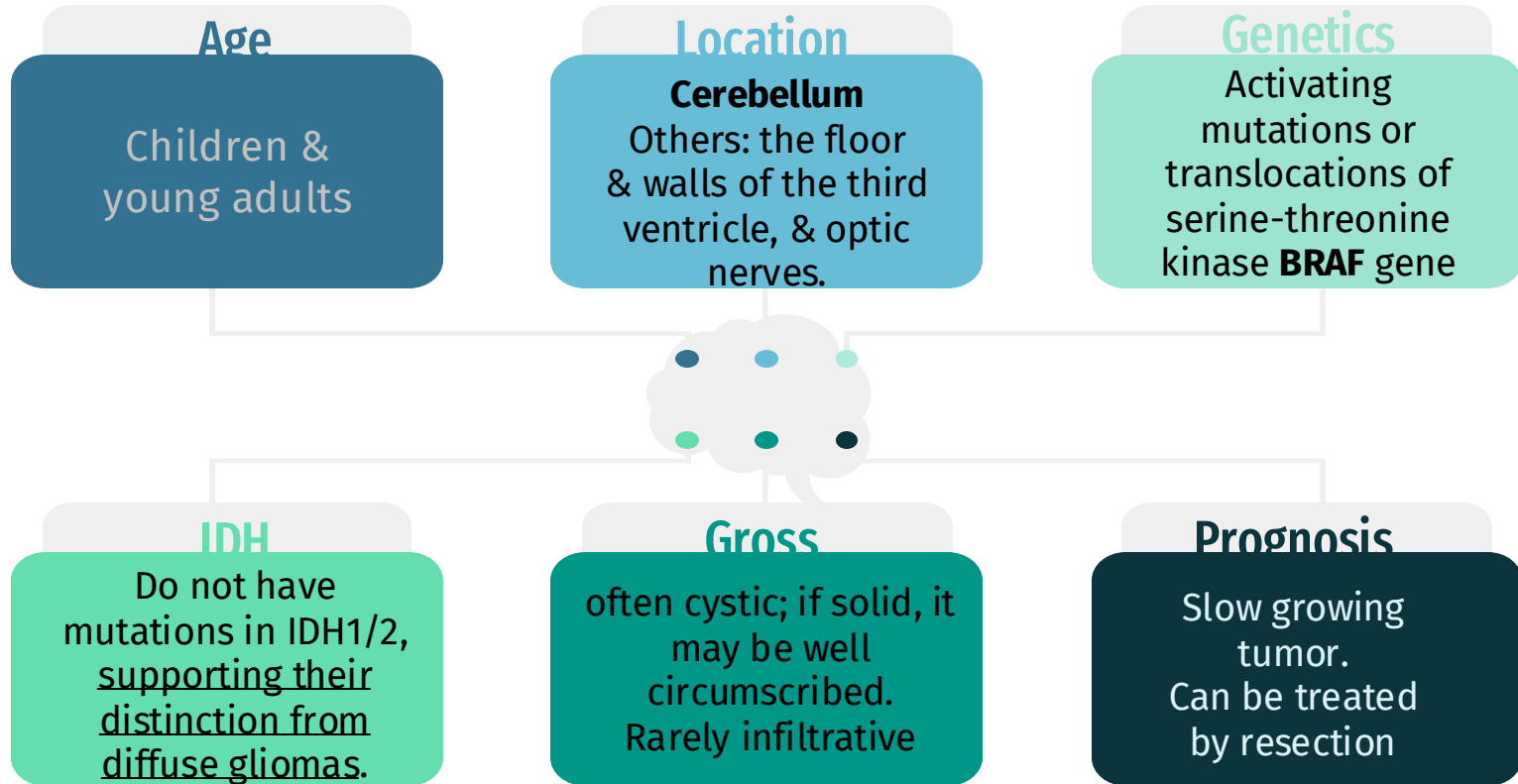
- Sheets of regular cells with spherical nuclei containing finely granular chromatin (similar to normal oligodendrocytes) surrounded by a clear halo of vacuolated cytoplasm “fried egg”
- Contains a delicate network of anastomosing capillaries.
- Calcification, in 90% of these tumors



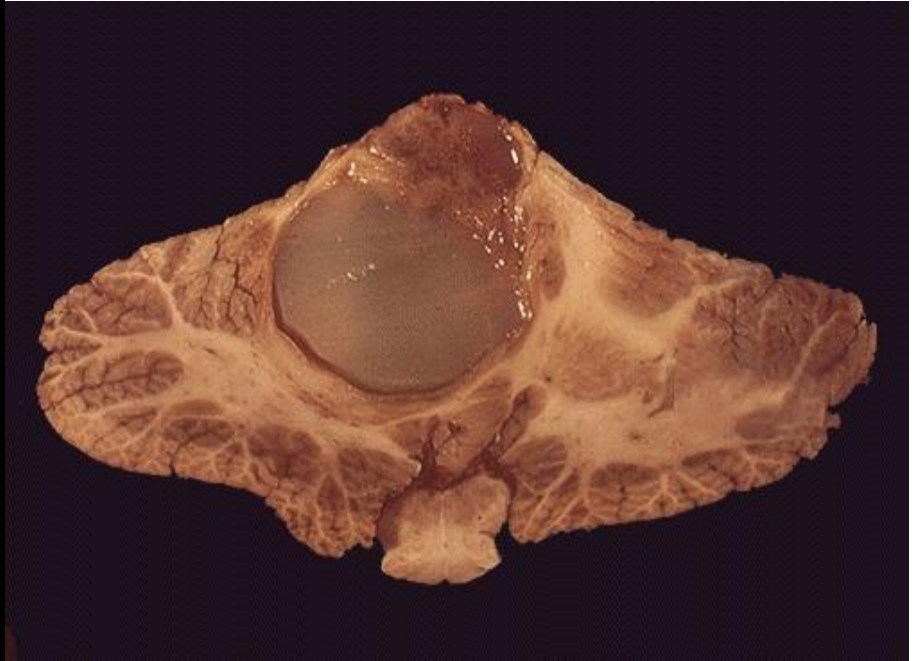
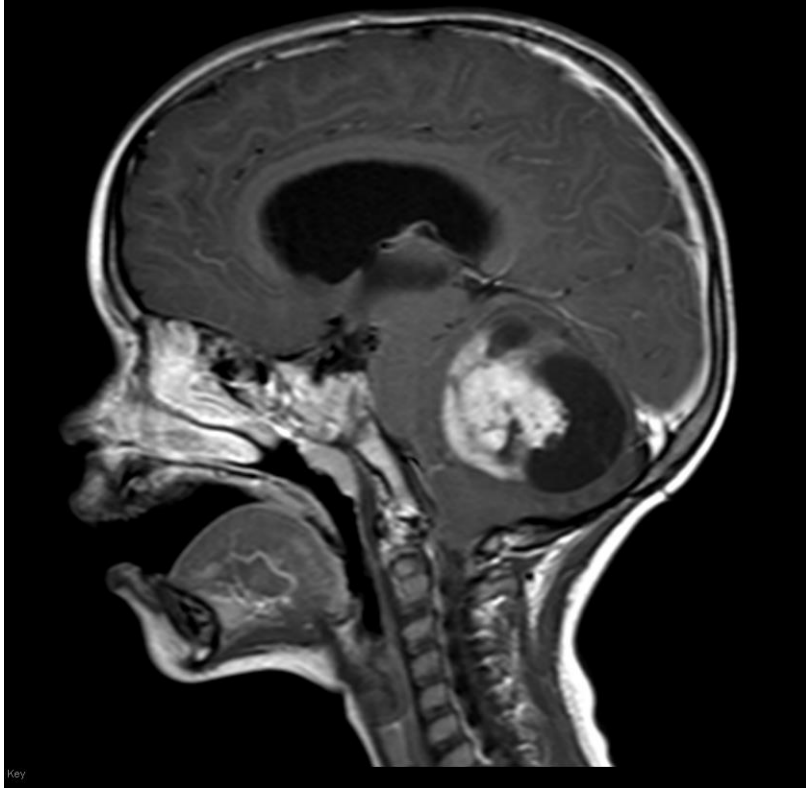
# Oligodendroglioma - microscopic



# Localized astrocytoma- Pilocytic Astrocytoma (WHO grade I)



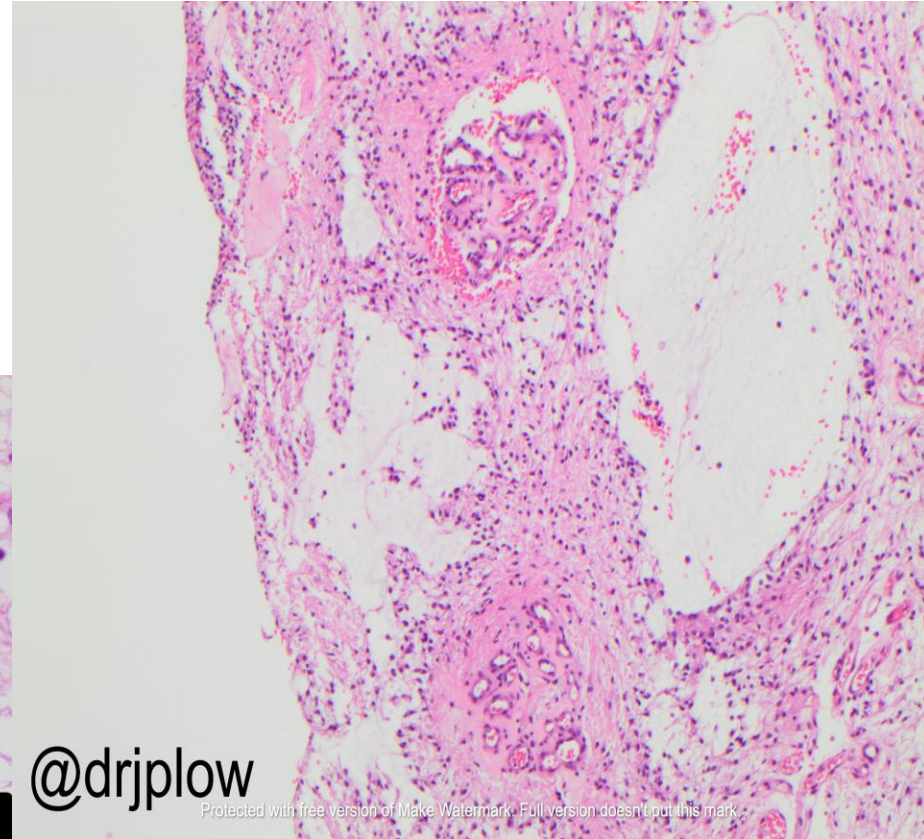
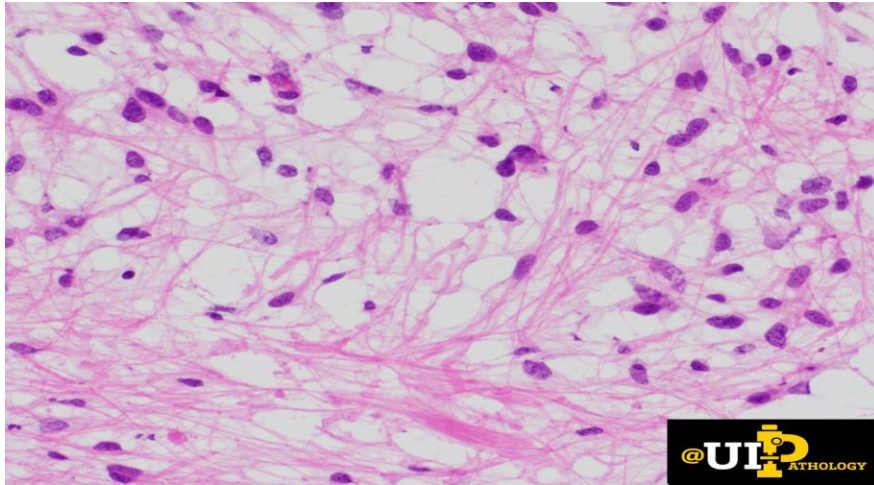
# Pilocytic Astrocytoma (WHO grade I)



# Pilocytic Astrocytoma (WHO grade 1) - microscopic

The tumor is composed of:

- Bipolar cells with long, thin “hair-like” (pilo) processes.
- Rosenthal fibers.
- Eosinophilic granular bodies.
- Microcysts often present.
- Necrosis & mitoses are rare.

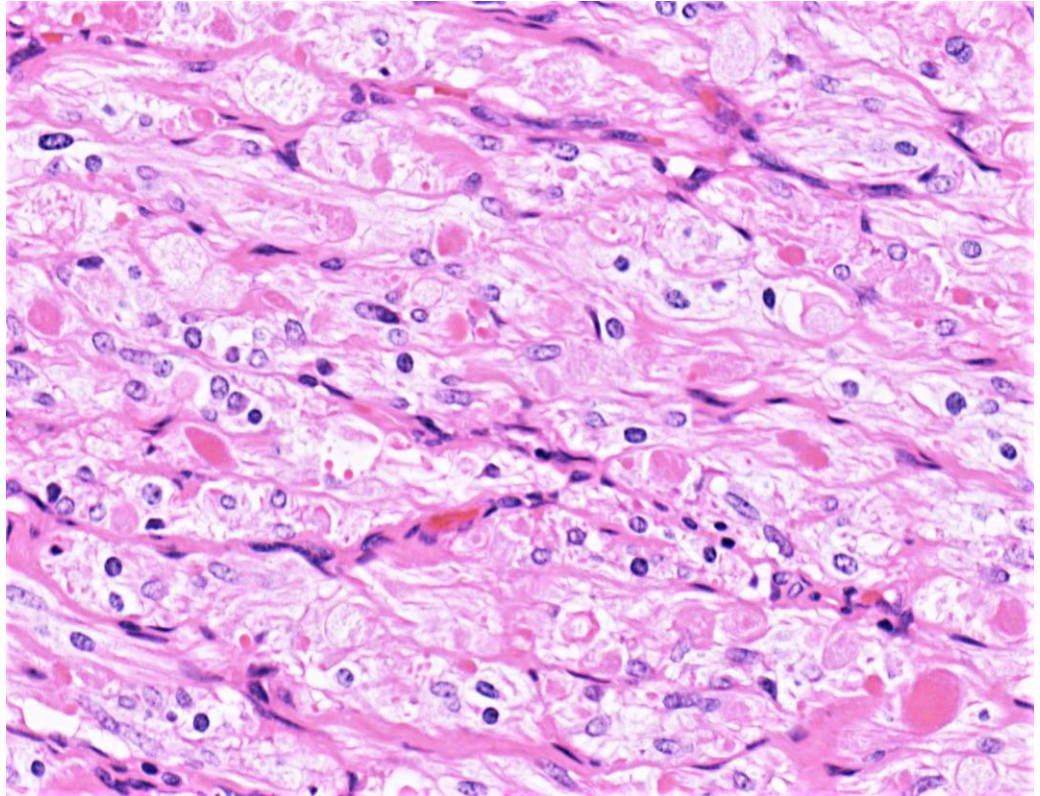


@drjplow

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# Pilocytic Astrocytoma (WHO grade I) - microscopic

- **Rosenthal fibers** are thick, elongated, brightly eosinophilic, irregular structures that occur within astrocytic processes
- Rosenthal fibers are typically found in regions of longstanding gliosis and some brain tumors.



# Ependymoma (WHO grade 2,3)



most often arise next to the ependymal lined → ventricular system.

- first 2 decades of life, typically occur near the fourth ventricle.
- In adults, the spinal cord is their most common location



- 5% to 10% of the primary brain tumors in 1st two decades
- spinal cord site is particularly frequent in the setting of neurofibromatosis type 2



The clinical outcome for completely resected supratentorial and spinal ependymomas is better than for those in the posterior fossa.

# Ependymoma - Gross

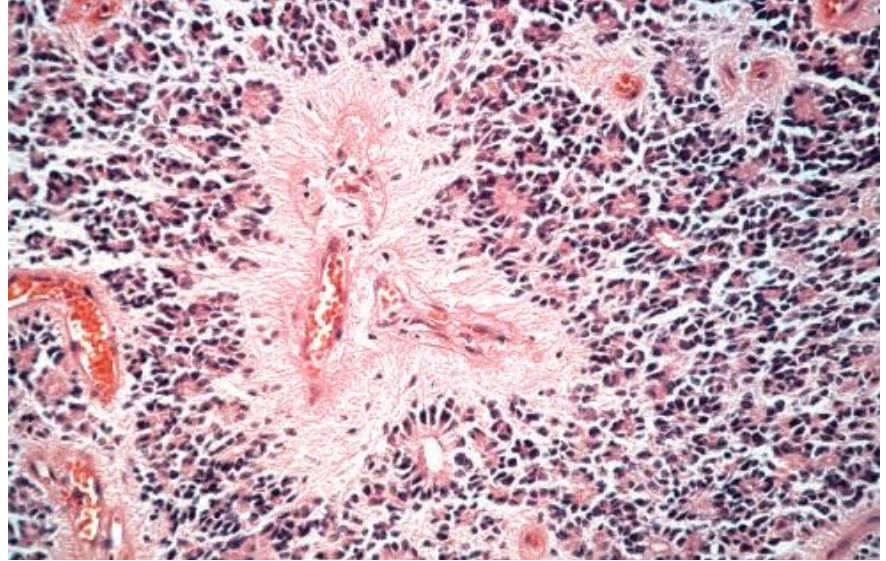
- In the fourth ventricle, ependymomas typically are solid or papillary masses extending from the ventricular floor.





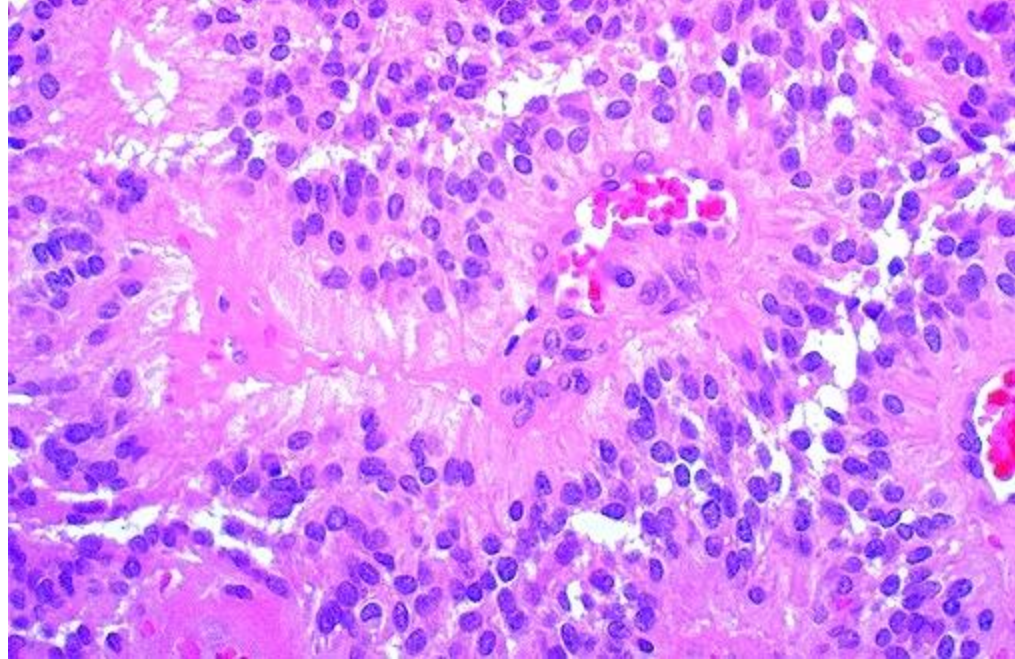
# Ependymoma - microscopic

- Cells with round to oval nuclei & abundant granular chromatin.
- Dense fibrillary background.
- Cells may form round or elongated structures (**rosettes, canals**).



# Ependymoma - microscopic

- Or more frequently present are **perivascular pseudo-rosettes** in which tumor cells are arranged around vessels
- Anaplastic ependymomas (WHO grade 3) : cellularity, mitosis, & necrosis.



“Expect little from people.  
Expect a lot from yourself.  
That's the secret of happy  
life.”

**Q?..THANX!**