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Article

**Quantifying Pediatric Neuro-oncology Risk Factors: Development of the Neurological Predictor Scale**

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**Abstract**

Pediatric neuro-oncology researchers face methodological challenges associated with quantifying the influence of tumor and treatment-related risk factors on child outcomes. The Neurological Predictor Scale was developed to serve as a cumulative index of a child's exposure to risk factors. The clinical utility of the Neurological Predictor Scale was explored in a sample of 25 children with heterogeneous brain tumors. Consistent with expectation, a series of regression analyses demonstrated that the Neurological Predictor Scale significantly predicted composite intellectual functioning ( $r^2 = 0.21, p < .05$ ), short-term memory ( $r^2 = 0.16, p = .05$ ), and abstract visual reasoning abilities ( $r^2 = 0.28, p < .05$ ). With the exception of chemotherapy, the Neurological Predictor Scale accounted for a significant amount of the variance in child intellectual functioning above and beyond individually examined variables. The Neurological Predictor Scale can be used to quickly quantify the cumulative risk factors associated with pediatric brain tumor diagnoses.

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