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### **Gliomatosis cerebri: review of 22 patients.**

[Article in English, Spanish]

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#### **Abstract**

**INTRODUCTION:** Gliomatosis cerebri is a diffuse astrocytic neoplasm that involves more than two lobes of the brain. Treatment is not well defined and the prognosis is considered poor. **METHODS:** Retrospective analysis of 22 patients with gliomatosis cerebri. **RESULTS:** We identified 17 men and 5 women (median age 54 years) seen in a Division of Neuro-oncology over a 6 year period. Patients presented with focal sensorimotor or visual deficits (86.4%), seizures (36.4%), cognitive dysfunction (27.3%), or headache (27.3%), suggesting in some cases stroke, migraine, or limbic encephalitis. All patients had bilateral involvement; the regions involved included, temporal (19), basal ganglia (18), frontal (17), parietal (17), corpus callosum (10), and occipital (9). The most frequent pathological findings were grade III astrocytoma (36.4%), grade II astrocytoma (22.7%), and grade IV astrocytoma (18.3%). Nine patients were diagnosed within the first month of symptom development, 11 between the first month and 1 year, and 2 after one year. Seventeen patients received treatment with chemotherapy, radiotherapy or both, and 12 patients (70.6%) had a clinical or radiological response. The median follow-up was 13 months, median progression free survival 6 months, and median survival 9,5 months (15 months if the patients received treatment). Eight patients had thromboembolic events. **CONCLUSIONS:** Gliomatosis cerebri has a variable clinical course. Treatment often results in clinical responses. In this study de median survival of patients who received treatment was similar to that reported in series of glioblastoma multiforme.

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