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Risk-adapted chemotherapy in childhood medulloblastoma.

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Abstract

Medulloblastoma is the most common malignant brain tumor in children. The treatment strategy in this tumor mainly includes surgery and radiotherapy, but chemotherapy has been successfully applied in medulloblastoma. The survival rates have improved over the last decade with chemotherapy. The most important prognostic factors were the amount and the extent of metastases, surgery and age. Risk factors have been defined in recent years, but chemotherapy has not been planned according to these defined risk factors on a worldwide basis. The aim of this article was to examine the use of chemotherapy in childhood medulloblastoma according to risk group. A secondary aim was to examine high-dose chemotherapy with autologous stem cell transplantation and the treatment of infant medulloblastoma.

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