ABSTRACT

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A Radiologist's Guide to the 2021 WHO Central Nervous System Tumor Classification: Part I-Key Concepts and the Spectrum of Diffuse Gliomas.

Johnson DR(1), Giannini C(1), Vaubel RA(1), Morris JM(1), Eckel LJ(1), Kaufmann TJ(1), Guerin JB(1).

Author information:

(1)From the Departments of Radiology (D.R.J., J.M.M., L.J.E., T.J.K., J.B.G.), Neurology (D.R.J.), and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology (C.G., R.A.V.), Mayo Clinic, 200 First St SW, Rochester, MN 55905; and Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy (C.G.).

The fifth edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) classification of tumors of the central nervous system, published in 2021, contains substantial updates in the classification of tumor types. Many of these changes are relevant to radiologists, including "big picture" changes to tumor diagnosis methods, nomenclature, and grading, which apply broadly to many or all central nervous system tumor types, as well as the addition, elimination, and renaming of multiple specific tumor types. Radiologists are integral in interpreting brain tumor imaging studies and have a considerable impact on patient care. Thus, radiologists must be aware of pertinent changes in the field. Staying updated with the most current guidelines allows radiologists to be informed and effective at multidisciplinary tumor boards and in interactions with colleagues in neuro-oncology, neurosurgery, radiation oncology, and neuropathology. This review represents the first of a two-installment review series on the most recent changes to the WHO brain tumor classification system. This first installment focuses on the changes to the classification of adult and pediatric gliomas of greatest relevance for radiologists.

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