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European Cancer Organisation Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care: adult glioma

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Abstract

European Cancer Organisation Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care (ERQCCs) are explanations of the organisation and actions necessary to provide high-quality care to patients with a specific cancer type. They are compiled by a working group of European experts representing disciplines involved in cancer care, and provide oncology teams, patients, policymakers and managers with an overview of the essential requirements in any healthcare system. The focus here is on adult glioma. Gliomas make up approximately 80% of all primary malignant brain tumours. They are highly diverse and patients can face a unique cognitive, physical and psychosocial burden, so personalised treatments and support are essential. However, management of gliomas is currently very heterogeneous across Europe and there are only few formally-designated comprehensive cancer centres with brain tumour programmes. To address this, the ERQCC glioma expert group proposes frameworks and recommendations for high quality care, from diagnosis to treatment and survivorship. Wherever possible, glioma patients should be treated from diagnosis onwards in high volume neurosurgical or neuro-oncology centres. Multidisciplinary team working and collaboration is essential if patients' length and quality of life are to be optimised.

Keywords: adult; care organisation; multidisciplinary team; palliative care; primary brain tumour; radiation therapy; surgery.

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