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A Radiologist's Guide to the 2021 WHO Central Nervous System Tumor Classification: Part 2—Newly Described and Revised Tumor Types

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Abstract

The fifth edition of the World Health Organization classification of tumors of the central nervous system (CNS), published in 2021, introduces major shifts in the classification of brain and spine tumors. These changes were necessitated by rapidly increasing knowledge of CNS tumor biology and therapies, much of which is based on molecular methods in tumor diagnosis. The growing complexity of CNS tumor genetics has required reorganization of tumor groups and acknowledgment of new tumor entities. For radiologists interpreting neuroimaging studies, proficiency with these updates is critical in providing excellent patient care. This review will focus on new or revised CNS tumor types and subtypes, beyond infiltrating glioma (described in part 1 of this series), with an emphasis on imaging features.

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