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Imaging of Brain Tumors

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Abstract

Objective: This article focuses on neuroimaging as an essential tool for diagnosing brain tumors and monitoring response to treatment.

Latest developments: Neuroimaging is useful at all stages of brain tumor care. Technologic advances have improved the clinical diagnostic capability of neuroimaging as a vital complement to history, examination, and pathologic assessment. Presurgical evaluations are enriched by novel imaging techniques, through improved differential diagnosis and better surgical planning using functional MRI (fMRI) and diffusion tensor imaging. The common clinical challenge of differentiating tumor progression from treatment-related inflammatory change is aided by novel uses of perfusion imaging, susceptibility-weighted imaging (SWI), spectroscopy, and new positron emission tomography (PET) tracers.

Essential points: Using the most up-to-date imaging techniques will facilitate high-quality clinical practice in the care of patients with brain tumors.

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