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Palliative Care in Neuro-oncology: an Update

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Abstract

Purpose of review: While the benefits of palliative care for patients with cancer are well established, palliative care in neuro-oncology is still in its early stages. However, in recent years, there has been increasing attention drawn to the need for better palliative care for patients with brain tumors.

Recent findings: There is a growing body of literature demonstrating the high symptom burden and significant supportive care and information needs of these patients and their caregivers. In the area of caregiver needs, the last 3 years has seen a more rapid growth in recognizing and characterizing these needs. However, there remains a knowledge gap regarding the optimal means of addressing these needs. In this article, we outline important recent advances in the literature on palliative care for patients with brain tumors and highlight areas in need of greater attention and investigation.

Keywords: Brain tumor; Caregiver needs; Neuro-oncology; Palliative care; Symptom management.

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