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病理科-李鯨瀛醫師 102-1-26















Anaplastic Astrocytoma (AA)

- Mitotically active infiltrating astrocytomaWHO III
- Can appear de novo or arise from grade II astrocytoma

AA

Site:

-- Cerebral hemispheres (children and adults)
-- Thalamus (children and adults)
-- Brain stem (usually pons) (typically children)
-- Cerebellum (usually adults) rare
-- Spinal cord (usually children and adults): uncommon

MICRO

- Infiltrative:
- **Cellularity:**

generally moderate to high

can overlap with GBM or astrocytoma

- Nuclei:
 - highly variable degree of atypia
- Mitosis:

1 usually considered sufficient in small specimen

- WHO: 1 insufficient in large specimen, but no codified number
- Vascular proliferation: absent
- Necrosis: absent
- Calcification (uncommon)

Immuno stain

GFAP (glial fibrillary acidic protein) astrocytes are positive
MIB-1 (Ki-67): usually in 5-15% range
IDH-1 (+) in most cases

D.D

- Reactive gliosis:
 - low to medium cellularity
 - generally uniform cells with no or minor atypia low Ki-67 rate
- Astrocytoma mitotically less active ↓cytological atypia and ↓Ki-67 rate, but overlap
- **GBM:** necrosis
- Pilocytic astrocytoma
- Oligodendroglioma

Pilocytic Astrocytoma

- Occurs predominantly in children and young adults (< 20 Y/o)
- Most common glioma in children
- Most frequently occurs in the cerebellum; may be seen in the optic nerve, third ventricle, hypothalamus, brain stem, cerebral hemispheres, or thalamus
- Gross: relatively-circumscribed

Pilocytic Astrocytoma

Biphasic pattern:

--- Loose, microcystic areas typically contain eosinophilc granular bodies or protein droplets ---Pilocytic component shows elongated cells with densely packed fibrillary cytoplasm and Rosenthal fibers

□ GFAP: (+)

Overall prognosis is excellent

Oligodendroglioma

- Typically occurs in adults (peak in 40-45 y/o), rare in children
- Prefer in the cortex and white matter of the cerebral hemispheres
- Soft, well-defined tumor
- Fried-egg/honeycomb appearance: monomorphic cells with uniform round nuclei and perinuclear halos
- Mitotic activity is usually low
- □ GFAP: (-)

A.A.

Prognosis:

- Poor, most patients succumb within 5 years
- Often progress to GBM

Diagnostic checklist

- Exclude mimics
- Be careful in the diagnosis; AA treated with R/T and C/T