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Preface

Intraventricular tumors

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Guest Editors

Neurosurgical oncology is an evolving discipline that continually benefits from the translation of scientific advances into clinical treatment paradigms. For the past 30 years at the University of California–San Francisco, basic scientists and clinicians have been working together to rapidly implement new discoveries for the benefit of our patients. Several examples of these collaborations can be found here and at other premier neurosurgery departments around the world. A refined understanding of the molecular pathways that contribute to tumor development has yielded new targets for chemotherapy, while our increasing experience with radiosurgery has broadened treatment options for patients. The advent of surgical adjuncts such as functional mapping techniques, computerized frameless stereotaxy, and endoscopy has significantly decreased surgical morbidity. In addition, surgical procedures are now in place to facilitate local delivery of chemotherapeutic agents with unprecedented tumor specificity.

Intraventricular tumors epitomize the challenges faced by neurosurgical oncologists in the twenty-first century. These lesions have a complex biology and require significant skill to excise without attendant morbidity. A comprehensive understanding of ventricular anatomy, surgical approaches, and nonsurgical treatment options is requisite for the neurosurgeon. Successful treatment of patients with these lesions requires a dedicated team of pathologists, oncologists, and neurosurgeons. In this issue of the *Neurosurgery Clinics of North America*, we draw upon the experience of several colleagues to facilitate a better understanding of intraventricular tumors in children and adults.

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