Tumori, 96: 160-163, 2010

Two cases of pediatric high-grade astroblastoma with different clinical behavior

Stefano Mastrangelo[1], Libero Lauriola[2], Paola Coccia[1], Nadia Puma[1], Luca Massimi[3], and Riccardo Riccardi[1]

[1]Division of Pediatric Oncology, [2]Department of Pathology, [3]Pediatric Neurosurgery Unit, Catholic University, Rome, Italy

ABSTRACT

Astroblastoma is a rare glial tumor occurring in older children and defined by histological criteria as low or high-grade. We describe two children with high-grade astroblastoma. The first patient, with multiple recurrences of a frontoparietal tumor, died 10 years from diagnosis after progression of the disease despite surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The second patient underwent subtotal resection of a temporal mass; the residual tumor progressed five months after radiotherapy, but after a subsequent gross total resection the patient is now in complete remission 54 months from diagnosis. Although both patients had high-grade astroblastomas, there were histological differences between the two tumors, in particular regarding the proliferative index, which was 30% and 5-10%, respectively.

High-grade astroblastoma is usually treated with surgery and radiotherapy, but may have an unpredictable behavior even when tumor excision is deemed complete. The two cases reported here illustrate the variable clinical course of this rare tumor. The proliferative index may be a useful tool to better define prognosis. **Free full text available at www.tumorionline.it**

Key words: astroblastoma, children, treatment, prognosis.

Correspondence to: Stefano Mastrangelo, Division of Pediatric Oncology, Gemelli Hospital, Catholic University of Rome, Largo A. Gemelli, 8, 00168 Rome, Italy.
Tel +39-06-3058203;
fax +39-06-3052751;
e-mail
stefano.mastrangelo@rm.unicatt.it

Received May, 26, 2009;
accepted June 30, 2009.