

Gliosarcomas in the elderly: analysis of 7 cases and clinico-pathological remarks

Valerio di Norcia¹, Manolo Piccirilli¹, Felice Giangaspero², and Maurizio Salvati²

¹Department of Neurosurgical Sciences, Neurosurgery, Policlinico Umberto I, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome; ²INM Neuromed, Neurosurgery, Pozzilli (IS), Italy

ABSTRACT

Aims and background. Gliosarcomas are rare malignant primary brain tumors that usually affect the fifth or sixth decades of life. The purpose of this study was to describe our experience with such lesions in elderly patients and to establish their prognosis factors.

Methods. Between 1993 and 2001, 7 patients over 60 years of age were treated at our institute for cerebral gliosarcomas. All patients underwent surgery for total or at least sub-total removal of a neoplastic mass.

Results. Owing to poor clinical conditions (Karnofsky performance score = 40), one patient was not treated postoperatively. Remaining patients were treated with whole-brain radiotherapy, whereas concomitant chemotherapy (temozolomide) was administered only to 4 patients. Histological examination showed the prevalence of sarcomatous aspects in 3 patients; the gliomatous aspect prevailed in 4 patients.

Conclusions. Sarcomatous aspects and multimodality treatment (surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy) were associated with a better prognosis and showed in these elderly patients a trend similar to that of young people.

Key words: elderly, gliosarcomas, multimodality treatment, neurosurgery, survival.

Correspondence to: Maurizio Salvati, MD, Via Cardinal Agliardi 15, 00165 Rome, Italy.

Tel +39-06-49979119;
fax +39-06-4940941;
e-mail salvati.maurizio@libero.it

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