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Featured Articles

Metastatic Brain & Spine Tumors
New Pain Physician, Gregory V. D'Eramo
Cervical Anterior Interbody Fusion Device
Treatments for Cancer Pain
Upcoming Educational Seminars

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Mountain River Physical Therapy
Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics - LabCorp - Cox Family Pharmacy

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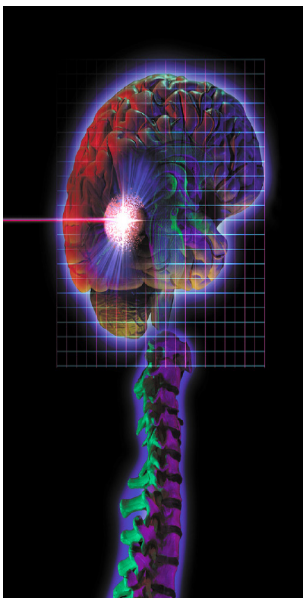
Metastatic Brain & Spine Tumors

By
Houman
Khosrovi, MD



Metastatic brain tumors are the most common type of malignant brain tumors. Lung cancer, breast cancer, and melanoma are the most common types of systemic cancers that metastasize to the brain. Twenty five percent of patients with cancer eventually develop brain metastases. Tumors metastasize to the brain through the blood stream only.

Current treatments available for metastatic tumors include any combination of surgery, whole brain radiotherapy (WBRT), stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS), and chemotherapy. The treatment of these intracranial tumors depend on a number of factors including the number of tumors, size of tumors, location of tumors, age of the patient, the extent of systemic disease, etc.

Steroids are used to decrease edema caused by the tumor in the surrounding brain. Anticonvulsants are used to treat or prevent seizures in patients with supratentorial tumors. Analgesics are used judiciously to control headaches.

As research increases our knowledge and understanding of specific tumor biology and behavior within the brain, treatments will be tailored towards specific tumor histology and location.

All newly diagnosed cancer patients, especially those with lung cancer, breast cancer, and melanoma should be educated regarding the odds of developing metastases to the brain. They should be educated on the signs and symptoms of metastatic brain disease.

Any patient with a history of cancer complaining of headache should undergo diagnostic imaging studies to rule out metastatic brain disease.

All cancer patients who develop metastatic brain disease should be evaluated by a neurosurgeon in addition to continued care by their oncologists and radiation oncologists.

New Pain Physician at PARS Interventional Pain & Wellness Center - Dr. Gregory V. D'Eramo

The PARS Interventional Pain & Wellness Center welcomes Dr. Gregory V. D'Eramo as a new Pain Physician. Dr. D'Eramo is:

- A graduate of Temple University School of Medicine
- Fellowship trained in Interventional Pain Management
- A Board Certified Physiatrist

Dr. D'Eramo, working together with Dr. Pete Pantelidis (ABA Board Certified in Pain Medicine and Anesthesiology), will offer the following standard pain management services to patients:

- Epidural injections (cervical & lumbar)
- Sacroiliac joint injections
- Medial branch blocks
- Trigger point injections
- Occipital nerve injections
- Peripheral joint injections
- Hyalgan joint injections

Dr. D'Eramo and/or Dr. Pantelidis also offer patients:

- Whiplash & Headache treatments
- Radiofrequency procedures
- Knee, hip, and shoulder treatments
- Neuralgia pain treatment
- Lumbar disc decompressions
- Provocative lumbar discography
- Lumbar disc nucleoplasty
- Spinal cord stimulator trials

PARS Pain Physicians specialize in assisting patients whose current pain treatment is not working, whose pain has worsened through time, and evaluation-treatment of patients whose cause of pain has not yet been determined.

Gregory V. D'Eramo, MD

Zero Profile - New Cervical Anterior Interbody Fusion Device

The Zero-P Anterior Cervical Interbody Fusion (ACIF) device is intended for use following anterior cervical discectomy for reduction and stabilization of the cervical spine. Indications for the device include:

- Degenerative disc disease (DDD)
- Spinal Stenosis
- Failed previous fusions
- Pseudoarthrosis

Further, the device is indicated for skeletally mature patients with DDD and accompanying radicular symptoms at one level from C3 to T1.

Potential benefits of the device verses established fixation methods include possible reduction of dysphagia, and potential prevention of adjacent level ossification. The device does not require removal of adjacent plates from previous spine stabilization procedures, thereby potentially minimizing complications from historical plate & screw removal.

Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics - WalkAide System

Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics of Parkersburg is pleased to offer the WalkAide System to patients. This device may restore functionality to those with "foot drop" due to stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and other pathologies such as multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy.

The WalkAide System applies low level electrical currents directly to a motor nerve in the impaired leg, instructing the muscle to flex the foot so the patient can walk more normally. Worn around the leg, just below the knee, the wireless battery-operated device is about the size of a deck of cards.

In addition to potential improvement of patient gait, potential medical benefits of the WalkAide System are increased mobility, strength, and endurance, decreased energy expenditure, potential prevention, retardation, and/or reversal of muscle atrophy, and maintained or increased joint range of motion.

Further potential benefits may include reduced incidence of injury, increased circulation, muscle re-education, maintained or increased bone density, and potential strengthening of damaged central nervous system pathways and muscle/spinal circuits.

Treating Cancer Pain - PARS Interventional Pain & Wellness Center

The majority of people with cancer will unfortunately experience pain at some time or another. The pain may result from the cancer itself, or from the cancer's treatment. Some patients who have been cured or are in remission can continue to suffer from pain. Our team will carefully evaluate the patient and medical history to determine what the appropriate plan of care would be to help alleviate pain.

Interventions

There are many different methods available to control the cancer pain. These include injections, medications, physical therapy, biofeedback, treatments with tens units or muscle stimulators, spinal cord stimulation, and surgical intervention.

Injections

Often a group of nerves, called a plexus or ganglion, that causes pain to a specific organ or body region can be blocked with the injection of medication into a specific area of the body. These types of nerve blocks include: cervical, thoracic, and lumbar epidurals, cervical plexus, cervical paravertebral block, brachial plexus block, celiac plexus block, neurolysis, lumbar sympathetic blockade, peripheral nerve stimulation, stellate ganglion blockade, and ganglion impar blockade.

Medications

Different medications that can be used to help treat pain include over the counter medications, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, tricyclic antidepressants, anti-seizure medications, corticosteroids and opiate pain medications. Antidepressants are used to relieve pain even if the chronic pain has not caused depression. Anticonvulsants are used not only for seizures, but also to control burning and tingling sensations, painful symptoms of nerve damage.

PARS BSI Spine Seminar - Spring 2009
Metastatic Spinal Tumors

The spring 2009 PARS Brain & Spine Institute Spine Seminar will address the theme of Metastatic Spinal Tumors, and will include presentations and discussion regarding related diagnosis, treatment, and patient care. Dinner will be provided.

Date: Friday, 29 May 2009 - 6:30pm to 8:45pm

Location: PARS Brain & Spine Institute, 1212 Garfield Ave, Parkersburg WV - Main Auditorium

Attendance: For Mid-Ohio Valley physicians, other medical professionals & guests

Call (304) 865-3612 if you are a medical professional interested in participating

Speakers

Dr. Houman Khosrovi
Diagnosis & Treatment of Metastatic Spine Tumors

Dr. Srini Vasan
Radiosurgery Treatments for Patients with Metastatic Spine Tumors

Dr. Gregory V. D'Eramo
Palliative Pain Treatments for Cancer Patients

Duo Apollonio
Dr. Robert & Melissa Herceg
perform at Winter 2008
Spine Seminar

PARS BSI Mid-Level Provider & RN Seminar - Neurosurgery 101

Mid-Level Providers & Registered Nurses are invited to attend a PARS BSI educational event to increase understanding of neurosurgical-related technical knowledge:

- Date: Thursday, 17 September 2009
- Location: PARS Brain & Spine Institute, 1212 Garfield Ave, Parkersburg WV - Main Auditorium
- For: Mid-Level Providers & Registered Nurses
- Call (304) 865-3612 if you are a medical professional interested in participating (Dinner provided)

Speakers

Erin Strcula (PA-C): Neurosurgical-related terminology, anatomy, and 'red flags' common amongst patients

Elaine Nunner (RN): Neurosurgical-related incision care, signs-symptoms-restrictions following surgery

Shriner's Golf Tournament

103.1 The Bear Presents the 3rd Annual Spring Swing Golf Tournament benefitting the Shriners Hospitals for Children
Sponsored by the PARS Brain & Spine Institute

Monday, May 11th, 2009
Golf Club of West Virginia, Parkersburg WV
Registration begins at 8:00am, start at 9:00am

Contact Stephanie Sams for questions or for more information about participation: (304) 485-4565 ext. 113

Annual Relay for Life Yard Sale at PARS BSI
Sat., May 2nd, 2009 8:30-2:00
1212 Garfield Ave., Parkersburg
Lower Level, Rain or Shine