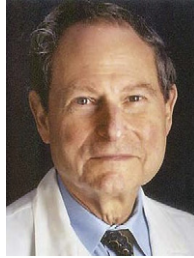


Preface



Lisa M. DeAngelis, MD

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Guest Editors

Neuro-oncologists manage patients with primary brain tumors, metastases that compromise the nervous system, and paraneoplastic disorders. To understand these disorders requires familiarity with the principles of pathogenesis and treatment of both neurologic and oncologic illnesses. In general, neuro-oncologic therapy is similar to that of general oncology and includes surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy. However, the nervous system is a unique organ that has limited ability to compensate for injury and, at the present time, limited capacity for repair. Consequently, the nervous system's response to injury or disease causes problems that often compromise the ability to deliver the most rigorous antitumor therapy. These combined challenges make neuro-oncology unique and difficult. Furthermore, the nervous system controls functional capacity and the individual's personality and sense of self; patients rightfully fear any compromise of these functions.

This issue of *Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America* addresses the current therapies for many of the most common neuro-oncologic problems. It is written by experts in the field who participated in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Department of Neurology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The authors are current faculty or those who were trained at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and have established independent programs at

their own respective institutions. Thus, this represents a wide spectrum of expertise and provides the most current information in the field.

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