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Brain metastases from primary cutaneous malignancies

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Skin cancer can be divided mainly into three types: Basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. Although, basal cell carcinoma is the most common one (4-5 times more common than squamous cell carcinoma) and in nearly 80% of cases it is located in the head and neck, it rarely metastasizes. On the other hand, squamous cell carcinoma can metastasize by hematogenous dissemination to the lungs, liver or even the brain. In nearly 50% of metastatic melanoma cases, the disease can be found in the brain. Superficial spreading is the most common growth pattern of melanoma but brain metastases can also occur through intracranial perineural invasion. When melanoma metastasizes to the head, the lesions can have a variety of appearances and can occur in various locations such as the cavernous sinus or Meckel's cave. Most common symptoms of brain metastases include: Headache, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, vision or language disturbances, hearing loss, behavioral changes, seizures and muscle weakness. Patients with intracranial metastases of skin cancer can be treated with palliative external-beam radiotherapy and prolonged survival or even cure can be achieved.

Biography

Panagiotis Zogopoulos is a Resident of Neurosurgery at the General Hospital of Nikaia-Piraeus "Agios Panteleimon", Greece. He has received 6-month Advanced Clinical Training (Clinical Fellow) at the Neurosurgery Department of Osaka University Hospital in Japan. Several of his papers have been published in reputed peer-review journals and he has presented various researches in international conferences.

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