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Multimodality management of spine tumors

Lilyana Angelov

Rose Ella Burkhardt Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center, USA

Spinal metastases can occur in up to 30-50% of patients diagnosed with cancer and often these tumors can significantly impact a patient's life related to disabling pain, fractures or neurological dysfunction and ultimately paralysis from spinal cord compression. The goal in the treatment of these patients is early diagnosis in order to control the consequences of these metastatic lesions and optimize the patient's quality of life. Treatment options include surgery (both open and minimally invasive), conventional radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and pain management. With the development of SRS in the past decade, a novel, non-invasive and very effective addition to the treatment options for patients with metastatic spine tumors has become available. This technique allows a highly selective radiation dose to be delivered to the tumor resulting in effective pain control (~85%) and durable tumor control (~90%) while at the same time minimizing the radiation to adjacent normal structures thereby decreasing both the acute and delayed morbidity related to the treatment. This new and effective treatment is rapidly becoming an important part of the treatment options we provide to patients with spine tumors.

Biography

Lilyana Angelov is a Neurosurgeon who was trained at the University of Toronto, Canada. She completed a neurosurgery trauma fellowship in Toronto in 2001-2002, followed by a neurooncology and gamma knife fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in 2002-2003 and she is double board certified in Neurosurgery in both Canada and the United States. She joined the staff in Neurosurgery and the Gamma Knife Center at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio in 2003. She has made brain and spinal neuro-oncological surgery her career focus. In 2006, she became Head of the Section of Spine Radiosurgery and Head of the Section of Spine Tumors in 2007. She developed the spine radiosurgery program at the Cleveland Clinic, the first program of its kind in Ohio and indeed one of the earliest such programs in all of the US and is recognized both nationally and internationally in this field.

angelol@ccf.org

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