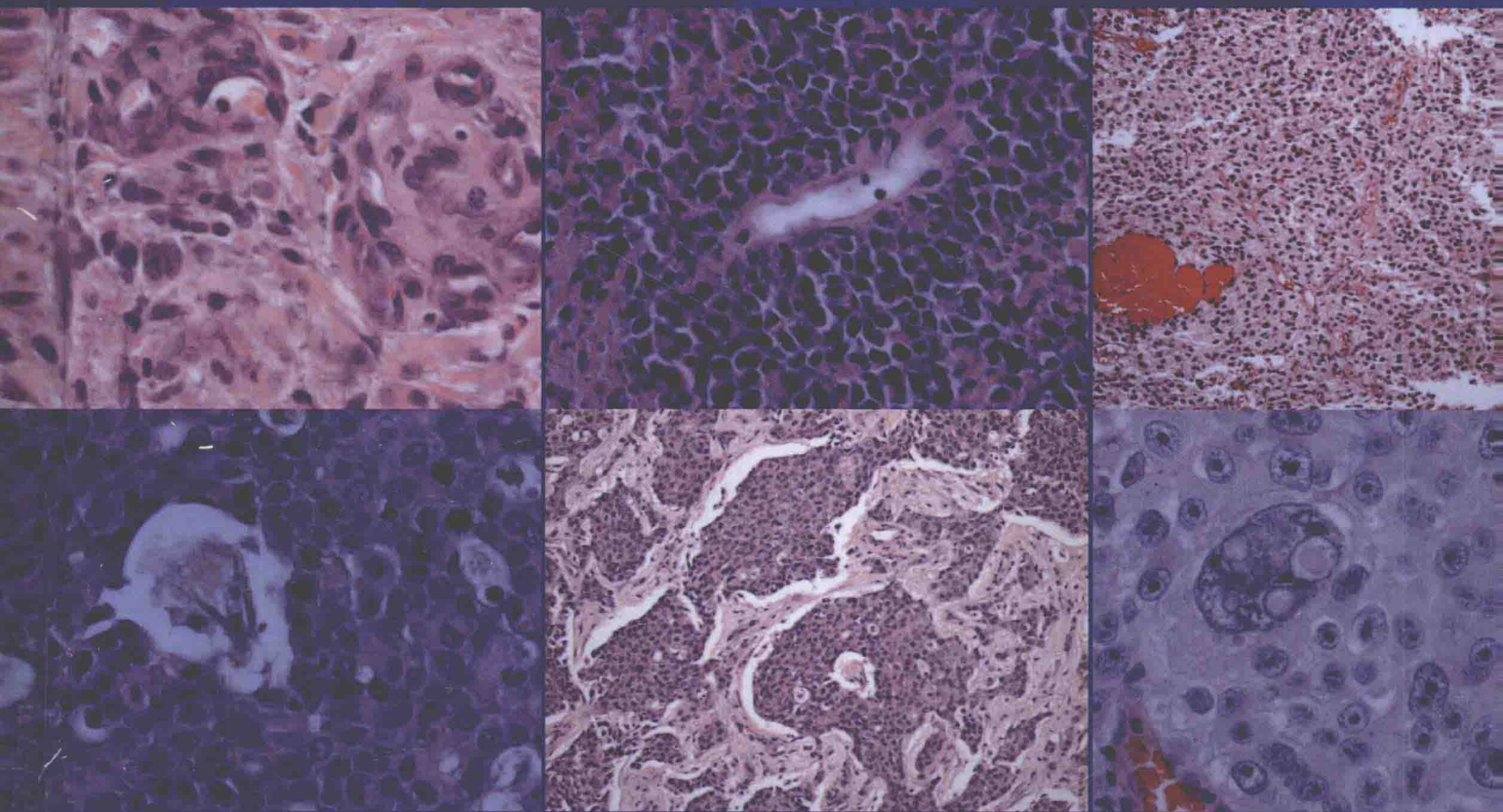


Epilepsy AND Brain Tumors

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EPILEPSY AND BRAIN TUMORS

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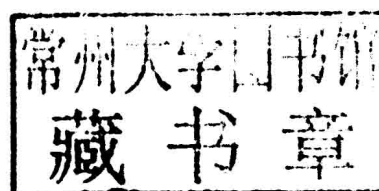
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AMSTERDAM • BOSTON • HEIDELBERG • LONDON
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Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier



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32 Jamestown Road, London NW1 7BY, UK
525 B Street, Suite 1800, San Diego, CA 92101-4495, USA
225 Wyman Street, Waltham, MA 02451, USA
The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, UK

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN: 978-0-12-417043-8

For information on all Academic Press publications
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Typeset by SPi Global, India



EPILEPSY AND BRAIN TUMORS

Dedication

I would like to thank my wife, Cindy, and my children, Alex and Ashley, for their love and support. I would also like to thank my Neuro-Oncology patients and their families for their constant inspiration, as we continue the fight against brain tumors.

Herbert B. Newton

Knowledge and understanding allow our dreams to take flight.
Though at times arduous, especially against the wind, flying is always beautiful..

Don't ever stop.

To my daughter

Italian version:

La conoscenza e il sapere sono le ali dei nostri sogni.
A volte è faticoso volare, specie controvento.
Eppure è sempre bellissimo.

Non smettere mai.

A mia figlia

Marta Maschio

Foreword

Epilepsy caused by brain tumors is a growing problem for both patients and the doctors who treat them, but it has not yet received the attention that it deserves from the research community. The numbers alone are impressive. The annual incidence of primary brain tumors is estimated to be 5 to 15 per 100,000 people, and the incidence of metastatic brain tumors is within the same range. Between 30 and 70% of people with brain tumors develop epilepsy, and in approximately 20–40% of cases, seizures are the initial presenting symptom. The diagnosis and management of epilepsy secondary to brain tumors require the clinician to confront unique challenges, including the complications associated with each of the two conditions, each with its given treatment approach and possible interactions. In light of these challenges, Marta Maschio and Herbert Newton should be commended for assembling a panel of top international experts to create a book that comprehensively addresses the relationship between brain tumors and epilepsy, as viewed by both the neuro-oncologist and the epileptologist. *Epilepsy and Brain Tumors* provides up-to-date information on several key aspects of the disorders and their treatment, including epidemiology, diagnostic approaches, pathology, and pathophysiology, as well as mechanisms of focal epileptogenesis, surgical, radiation and pharmacological treatments, neuropsychology, and rehabilitation programs. The book correctly emphasizes that managing people with epilepsy and brain tumors requires more than managing two separate conditions; it must involve a holistic approach with contributions from many disciplines. *Epilepsy and Brain Tumors* fills an important gap in the medical literature, and I am confident that it will be well received by neurologists, neuropediatricians, oncologists, palliative care specialists, and all scientists with an interest in epileptogenesis, epileptic seizures, and the specificities of brain tumors.

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Preface

It is not by chance that we, the editors of this book, come from two different areas of expertise, epileptology and neuro-oncology, and from two different continents. After many stimulating discussions about our different approaches to taking care of patients with brain tumor-related epilepsy, we concluded that our different visions could be the key to creating a unique and more complete approach to this complex disease.

Hence, we decided to embark on this endeavor, bringing with us many friends and colleagues whose work has contributed greatly to this field. Our intention was to strike the proper balance between advances in basic science and clinical practice, with patient quality of life as an integral part of each chapter. Reading this special volume will provide a more comprehensive understanding of brain tumor-related epilepsy mechanisms and care, with a special focus on the next steps toward individualized targeted therapies, which will be the primary research and clinical objective for all medical practitioners in the next decade.

We hope that we have successfully communicated to you, the readers, our firm belief that brain tumor-related epilepsy is the disease that best represents the need for specialists from different disciplines to work together, always and above all, with the patient and his/her caregivers in mind.

*Marta Maschio
Herbert B. Newton*

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