WHO Classification of Tumours of the Central Nervous System, Fourth Edition

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Representing the first volume in the fourth edition series of the World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumours, this book provides a welcome mix of old and new. Similar to prior versions, it opens with a summary of the recently revised WHO Classification of Tumours of the Central Nervous System (CNS), the remainder of the book being dedicated to a comprehensive yet succinct presentation of the most current knowledge relative to each individual tumor and familial tumor syndrome. The 73 contributing authors have likewise adopted a familiar standardized format with the following subheadings: definition, grading, incidence, age and sex distribution, localization, clinical features, neuroimaging, macroscopy, histopathology, proliferation, genetic susceptibility, genetics, histogenesis, and prognostic and predictive factors. Although a fair number of images have been recycled from previous editions, the majority is new and includes more than 400 full-color photomicrographs and macroscopic images, as well as numerous neuroimages, informative diagrams and charts. A number of tumor entities new to this version of the WHO Classification are explored in detail, including pilomyxoid astrocytoma, atypical choroid plexus papilloma, angiocentric glioma, extraventricular neurocytoma, papillary glioneuronal tumor, rosette-forming glioneuronal tumor of the fourth ventricle, papillary tumor of the pineal region, pituicytoma, and spindle cell oncocytoma of the adenohypophysis. Perhaps the most noticeable improvement comes by way of a voluminous expansion in the genetics sections of the majority of tumor categories. This update parallels the recent explosion of research utilizing high-resolution genome screening and other molecular techniques. The authors have done an outstanding job in distilling the information housed in over 2,500 cited references into a reader-friendly authoritative reference of CNS neoplasia. In summation, the current edition of the WHO Classification of Tumours of the Central Nervous System will serve as an indispensable textbook for all of those involved in the diagnosis and management of patients with tumors of the CNS, and will make a valuable addition to libraries in pathology, radiology, oncology, and neurosurgery departments.

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