

WHO Grade III Astrocytomas

These are otherwise known as anaplastic or malignant astrocytomas. They are infiltrative in nature, and carry a relatively poor prognosis. Earlier age at time of first diagnosis, significant extent of tumour removal, good overall health condition, and systematic follow-up and compliance of postoperative treatment are critical important for a more favourable prognosis.

Treatment: whenever possible, surgical removal is the treatment of choice. Radiation is usually advised following surgery. Chemotherapy is usually indicated in tumour recurrence and further malignant change.

Prognosis: the time to recurrence is very variable and can range from about three months to two and a half years. Life expectancy following re-surgery for recurrence can extend up to about one and a half years to two years.