

WHO Grade IV Astrocytomas

These are known as glioblastomas and exhibit the highest degree of malignancy amongst astrocytomas. They are highly infiltrative in nature, and carry a uniformly grim prognosis. Treatment is aimed solely at improvement of quality of life.

Treatment: like in the case of anaplastic astrocytomas, surgical removal is the treatment of choice whenever possible. Radiation is administered following surgery. Chemotherapy is usually indicated in tumour recurrence.

Prognosis: the survival time is variable and can range from about one year to occasionally three years, with very isolated cases surviving longer.