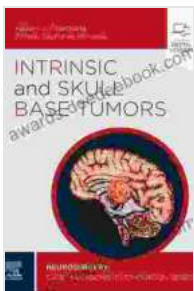


# Intrinsic and Skull Base Tumors: A Comprehensive Guide

Intrinsic tumors are a type of brain tumor that originates within the brain tissue itself. Skull base tumors, on the other hand, are tumors that arise from the bones or tissues that surround the brain. Both intrinsic and skull base tumors can be benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).



## Intrinsic and Skull Base Tumors: Neurosurgery: Case Management Comparison Series by Nancy Mitford

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Intrinsic and skull base tumors are relatively rare, accounting for only about 1% of all brain tumors. However, they can be very complex and challenging to treat. This is because these tumors are often located in deep and difficult-to-reach areas of the brain.

## Symptoms

The symptoms of intrinsic and skull base tumors can vary depending on the size, location, and type of tumor. Some common symptoms include:

\* Headaches \* Seizures \* Nausea and vomiting \* Vision problems \* Hearing problems \* Balance problems \* Speech problems \* Swallowing problems \* Facial weakness \* Numbness or tingling in the arms or legs

## **Diagnosis**

The diagnosis of intrinsic and skull base tumors typically involves a combination of imaging tests, such as MRI and CT scans. A biopsy may also be necessary to confirm the diagnosis.

## **Treatment Options**

The treatment options for intrinsic and skull base tumors depend on the size, location, and type of tumor. Treatment options may include:

\* Surgery \* Radiation therapy \* Chemotherapy \* Targeted therapy \* Immunotherapy

## **Surgery**

Surgery is often the first line of treatment for intrinsic and skull base tumors. The goal of surgery is to remove as much of the tumor as possible without damaging healthy brain tissue.

Surgery for intrinsic tumors can be very complex and challenging. This is because these tumors are often located in deep and difficult-to-reach areas of the brain.

Surgery for skull base tumors can also be complex, as these tumors are often located near critical structures, such as the brainstem and optic nerves.

## **Radiation Therapy**

Radiation therapy is a type of treatment that uses high-energy radiation to kill cancer cells. Radiation therapy can be used to treat intrinsic and skull base tumors that are not able to be removed with surgery.

Radiation therapy can be delivered externally, using a machine that directs radiation to the tumor from outside the body. Radiation therapy can also be delivered internally, using radioactive seeds or pellets that are implanted into the tumor.

## **Chemotherapy**

Chemotherapy is a type of treatment that uses drugs to kill cancer cells. Chemotherapy can be used to treat intrinsic and skull base tumors that have spread to other parts of the body.

Chemotherapy can be given orally, intravenously, or intrathecally (into the cerebrospinal fluid).

## **Targeted Therapy**

Targeted therapy is a type of treatment that uses drugs to block the growth of cancer cells. Targeted therapy can be used to treat intrinsic and skull base tumors that have specific genetic mutations.

Targeted therapy is typically given orally.

## **Immunotherapy**

Immunotherapy is a type of treatment that uses the body's own immune system to fight cancer. Immunotherapy can be used to treat intrinsic and skull base tumors that have certain genetic mutations.

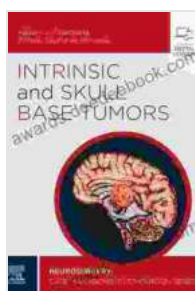
Immunotherapy is typically given intravenously.

## Prognosis

The prognosis for intrinsic and skull base tumors depends on a variety of factors, including the size, location, and type of tumor. The prognosis is also affected by the patient's age and overall health.

The overall 5-year survival rate for intrinsic and skull base tumors is about 50%. However, the prognosis can vary significantly depending on the specific type of tumor.

Intrinsic and skull base tumors are rare and complex growths that can affect the brain and surrounding



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