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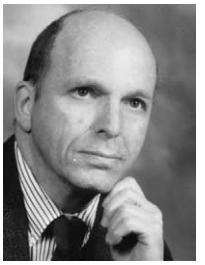
Preface

Pituitary surgery



Martin H. Weiss, MD William T. Couldwell, MD, PhD
Guest Editors

It has long been known that pituitary tumors are found in high incidence in the general population at autopsy. Given their incidence, there exists a potential for underdiagnosis of pituitary adenomas and the broad symptom complex that may be attributed to such tumors.

The diagnosis of a symptomatic tumor is established from a constellation of clinical, radiographic, and endocrinologic criteria. With a better understanding of the spectrum of symptoms produced, increased availability of tools to aid in diagnosis, and a dissemination of this knowledge to students and general practitioners, the recognition of pituitary tumors and the role of the pituitary in disease are on the rise. Goals of treatment for pituitary tumors include reversal of endocrinopathy (hyper- or hyposecretion) and decompression of symptoms from mass effect (eg, on the normal pituitary, visual apparatus, other cranial nerves). Treatments include some extremely effective medical therapies, surgery, radiosurgery, and conventional radiation therapy.

This issue compiles the contributions from a variety of experts in their respective specialties—pathologists, endocrinologists, diagnostic radiologists, radiation therapists and neurosurgeons. It provides a comprehensive and state-of-the art review of the diagnosis and management of pituitary tumors, both medical and surgical, and will be a valuable resource for all involved in the treatment of patients harboring these tumors.

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