

Intracranial hemangioblastoma

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Definition

Intracranial hemangioblastoma is a World Health Organization (WHO) grade I tumor of the CNS composed of capillary-sized blood vessels and stromal cells with variable lipid content. It can occur sporadically or in association with von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease.

□ Key Features

Location: Most often posterior fossa (especially cerebellum).

Histology: Highly vascular with stromal cells, often with foamy cytoplasm.

Clinical presentation: Depends on size and location; may include headache, ataxia, visual disturbances, or signs of increased intracranial pressure due to cyst formation or mass effect.

Radiology: Cystic lesion with an enhancing mural nodule on contrast MRI is characteristic.

Management: Surgical resection is the treatment of choice; stereotactic radiosurgery is an option for select cases.

Prognosis: Excellent for sporadic lesions after complete resection; more complex in VHL-associated cases due to multiplicity.

Classification

see [Intracranial hemangioblastoma classification](#).

Treatment

see [Intracranial hemangioblastoma treatment](#).

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