

Current Concepts on the Origin, Diagnosis and Treatment of Hemangioblastomas

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Hemangioblastomas are rare tumors and there are still many unanswered questions and controversies regarding these lesions. In this talk the current concepts on the origin and development as well as diagnosis and treatment of these tumors will be discussed. Hemangioblastomas appear to arise from developmentally arrested pre-hemangioblastic cells. During their development and progression these tumors mimic the development of hemangioblastic stem cells. The mainstay of treatment of these lesions is surgery. In general, surgery can be performed with low morbidity, but there are some factors which increase surgical risk. Different surgical approaches and recent developments will be discussed. Treatment alternatives include radiation and pharmacological therapy. However, the effectiveness of these alternatives has so far not been proven scientifically. Therefore, these should be viewed as alternatives for inoperable tumors and not be used for prophylactic treatment of hemangioblastomas.