

Preface

Jugular foramen tumors, once considered to be one of the most difficult skull base lesions to be resected, are now becoming manageable with reasonable morbidity and mortality rates. These lesions are deeply located and involve highly complex neurovascular structures. A plethora of pathological conditions are encountered in this region. The recent achievements in neuroradiology, molecular biology, and genetics have contributed to a better understanding of the natural history and biological behavior of these tumors. The innovations in computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and digital subtraction angiography have increased our ability to diagnose and delineate the extension of the disease. The well-coordinated multidisciplinary surgical approach to these challenging tumors, added to the parallel advances in the fields of interventional neuroradiology, neuroanesthesiology, neuroelectrophysiology, and neurointensive care, has revolutionized the management of these lesions. In spite of all these achievements, surgical removal of jugular foramen tumors remains a challenge for neurosurgeons and ENT surgeons. Therefore, multimodal treatment that includes radiotherapy or radiosurgery, as well as chemotherapy in selected cases, will complete the armamentarium to manage these complex lesions.

This book attempts to address the issues of historical aspects, epidemiology, surgical anatomy, diagnosis, surgical techniques, and postoperative management of these tumors. The results of a series of surgically treated patients and clinical examples as well as videos of the surgical technique are presented.

We would like to acknowledge the masters in skull base surgery who have had a personal influence on our career: Dr. Madjid Samii, neurosurgeon, and Dr. Wolfgang Draf, ENT surgeon, whose teaching, encouragement, and thoughts stimulated us to manage the most challenging lesions at skull base.

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