Brain/Spinal Cord
Protocol applies to all neoplasms of the brain/spinal cord.
Excludes neoplasms of the pituitary gland.

No AJCC/UICC staging system
January 2003

Procedures
• Cytology *(No Accompanying Checklist)*
• Biopsy
• Resection

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The College of American Pathologists offers these protocols to assist pathologists in providing clinically useful and relevant information in the reporting of the results of their examinations of surgical specimens. The College regards the reporting elements in the Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary portion of the protocols as essential elements of the pathology report. However, the manner in which these elements are reported is at the discretion of each specific pathologist – taking into account clinician preferences, institutional policies, and individual practice.

The College developed these protocols as an educational tool to assist pathologists in the useful reporting of relevant information. It did not issue the protocols for use in litigation, reimbursement, or other contexts. Nevertheless, the College recognizes that the protocols might be used by hospitals, attorneys, payers, and others. Indeed, effective January 1, 2004, the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has mandated the use of the checklist elements of the protocols as part of its Cancer Program Standards for Approved Cancer Programs. Therefore, it becomes even more important for pathologists to familiarize themselves with the document. At the same time, the College cautions that use of the protocols other than for their intended educational purpose may involve additional considerations that are beyond the scope of this document.
Summary of Changes

- The Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary (Checklist) has been modified to indicate with an asterisk (*) those items that are not required for accreditation purposes for the Commission on Cancer. These elements may be clinically important, but are not yet validated or regularly used in patient management. Alternatively, the necessary data may not be available to the pathologist at the time of pathologic assessment of this specimen.
Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary (Checklist)

Applies to all brain/spinal cord neoplasms
Excludes neoplasms of the pituitary gland
No AJCC/UICC staging system
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BRAIN/SPINAL CORD: Biopsy/Resection

Patient name:
Surgical pathology number:

**Note: Check 1 response unless otherwise indicated.**

MACROSCOPIC

SPECIMEN TYPE
___ Open biopsy
___ Stereotactic needle core biopsy
___ Subtotal/partial resection
___ Total resection
___ Other (specify): ____________________________
___ Not specified

SPECIMEN SIZE
Greatest dimension: ___ cm
*Additional dimensions: ___x___ cm

TUMOR SITE (check all that apply)
___ Cerebral meninges
___ Cerebrum (specify lobe(s), if known): __________________________
___ Basal ganglia
___ Thalamus
___ Hypothalamus
___ Suprasellar
___ Pineal
___ Cerebellum
___ Cerebellopontine angle
___ Ventricle
___ Brain stem
___ Spinal cord
___ Nerve root
___ Other (specify): ____________________________
___ Not specified

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TUMOR SIZE
Largest dimension: ___ cm
*Additional dimensions: ___ x ___ cm
___ Cannot be determined (see Comment)

MICROSCOPIC

HISTOLOGIC TYPE
___ Astrocytoma, not otherwise characterized
___ Astrocytoma, diffuse
___ Astrocytoma, pilocytic
___ Astrocytoma, pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma
___ Astrocytoma, anaplastic
___ Astrocytoma, other (specify): ____________________________
___ Glioblastoma
___ Gliosarcoma
___ Oligodendroglioma, not otherwise characterized
___ Oligodendroglioma, anaplastic
___ Oligoastrocytoma, not otherwise characterized
___ Oligoastrocytoma, anaplastic
___ Ependymoma, not otherwise characterized
___ Ependymoma, tanycytic
___ Ependymoma, myxopapillary
___ Ependymoma, anaplastic
___ Ependymoma, other (specify): ____________________________
___ Subependymoma
___ Choroid plexus papilloma
___ Choroid plexus carcinoma
___ Gangliocytoma
___ Ganglioglioma
___ Dysembryoplastic neuroepithelial tumor
___ Desmoplastic infantile gangliogioma/astrocytoma
___ Pineocytoma
___ Pineoblastoma
___ Pineal parenchymal tumor of intermediate differentiation
___ Medulloblastoma, not otherwise characterized
___ Medulloblastoma, desmoplastic
___ Medulloblastoma, large cell
___ Medulloblastoma, melanotic
___ Medulloblastoma, other (specify): ____________________________
___ Primitive neuroectodermal tumor (PNET)
___ Neuroblastoma
___ Atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor

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___ Schwannoma, not otherwise characterized
___ Schwannoma, cellular
___ Schwannoma, plexiform
___ Schwannoma, melanotic
___ Schwannoma, other (specify): ____________________________
___ Neurofibroma, not otherwise characterized
___ Neurofibroma, plexiform
___ Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST), not otherwise characterized
___ Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST), epithelioid
___ Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST), melanotic
___ Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST), other (specify): ____________________________
___ Meningioma, not otherwise characterized
___ Meningioma, atypical
___ Meningioma, papillary
___ Meningioma, rhabdoid
___ Meningioma, chordoid
___ Meningioma, clear cell
___ Meningioma, anaplastic
___ Meningioma, other (specify): ____________________________
___ Malignant lymphoma (specify type): ____________________________
___ Hemangioblastoma
___ Craniopharyngioma, not otherwise characterized
___ Craniopharyngioma, adamantinomatous
___ Craniopharyngioma, papillary
___ Craniopharyngioma, other (specify): ____________________________
___ Germinoma
___ Embryonal carcinoma
___ Yolk sac tumor
___ Choriocarcinoma
___ Teratoma, mature
___ Teratoma, immature
___ Teratoma with malignant transformation
___ Mixed germ cell tumor (specify): ____________________________
___ Other(s) (specify): ____________________________
___ Malignant neoplasm, type cannot be determined

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HISTOLOGIC GRADE
___ Not applicable
___ Cannot be determined
___ WHO Grade I
___ WHO Grade II
___ WHO Grade III
___ WHO Grade IV
___ Other (specify): _____________________________

MARGINS
___ Cannot be assessed
___ Not applicable
___ Margins uninvolved by tumor
___ Margin(s) involved by tumor
   Specify which margin(s): ___________________________

*ADDITIONAL STUDIES (check all that apply)
*___ None performed
*___ Electron microscopy
*___ Cytogenetics
*___ Molecular testing (specify): ___________________________
*___ Other (specify): ___________________________

*ADDITIONAL PATHOLOGIC FINDINGS
*Specify: ___________________________

*COMMENT(S)

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