

AMAZING RECOVERY AND SURVIVAL WITH GAMMA KNIFE RADIOSURGERY

A patient with colon cancer and multiple metastatic brain tumors has survived since 2005 after Gamma Knife Radiosurgery. This is just one of our amazing success stories.



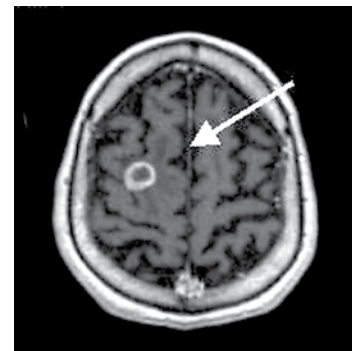
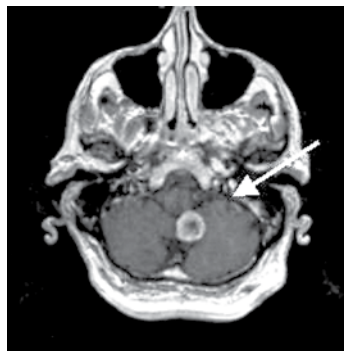
Asher Taban, MD
Medical Director,
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Brain metastasis from colorectal cancer is uncommon with incidence of 1.5 – 2.3 percent of all brain metastasis. The cerebellum is the most common area of colon cancer to brain metastasis and left-sided primary colon tumors predominate. Increased survival among patients with metastatic colorectal carcinoma will likely result in an increased incidence of brain metastases.

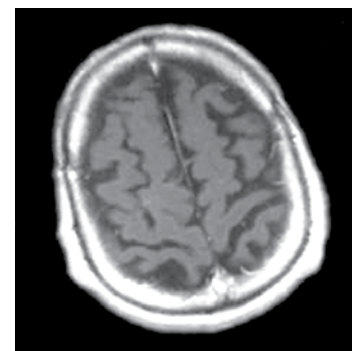
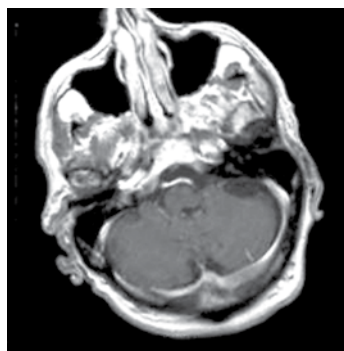
Whole brain radiotherapy survival ranges from 3–6 months. However, Gamma Knife Radiosurgery may result in a much higher survival rate and less brain toxicity. We treated such a patient at Northridge Hospital in 2005, who has remained fully functional with no identifiable brain lesion to date. This 77-year-old white male patient was first diagnosed with colon cancer in 1993 and treated with surgery and chemotherapy. He did well until early 2005 when he was found to have two enhancing brain lesions, including the left cerebellar tonsil measuring 21x19x16 mm and right parietal lobe measuring 11x12x14 mm with surrounding edema. The patient underwent Gamma Knife Radiosurgery at Northridge Hospital on June 30, 2005 and continues to remain under close observation.

The most recent MRI scan of the brain on November 12, 2009 revealed no identifiable metastatic tumor with 6–7 mm area of gliosis in the left inferior cerebellum, unchanged in the past four years. The original mass in this region measured 21mm in diameter. The patient is fully functional and remains neurologically intact. Factors influencing survival include Karnofsky performance scale score over 70, status of systemic disease and total number of intracranial tumors and histological diagnosis. The dramatic survival of this patient is an example of the efficacy of Gamma Knife Radiosurgery versus whole brain radiation.

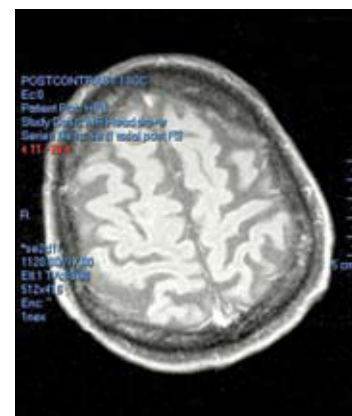
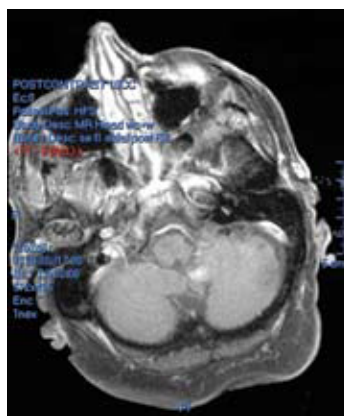
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MRI image on day of Gamma Knife treatment clearly shows the presence of two brain metastases.



A 7-month follow-up MRI shows the complete disappearance of the right frontal tumor and a marked decrease in the size of the second tumor in the cerebellum and no evidence of new lesions.



A 4½-year follow-up reveals no identifiable metastatic tumors.