

CLINICAL PAPER /

BRAIN METASTASES



Brain Metastases: Epidemiology and Pathophysiology

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ABSTRACT

Brain metastases are a devastating complication of systemic cancer. Although they typically occur late in the course of the disease, their symptoms of seizures, paralysis and cognitive failure have a major negative impact on quality of life and, once detected, they portend a poor prognosis. Most patients die within months, either from the brain metastasis itself, or if that can be controlled, from widespread systemic disease. Recent data suggest a rise in the incidence of brain metastases [1], so that clinicians face mounting challenges in caring for these patients.