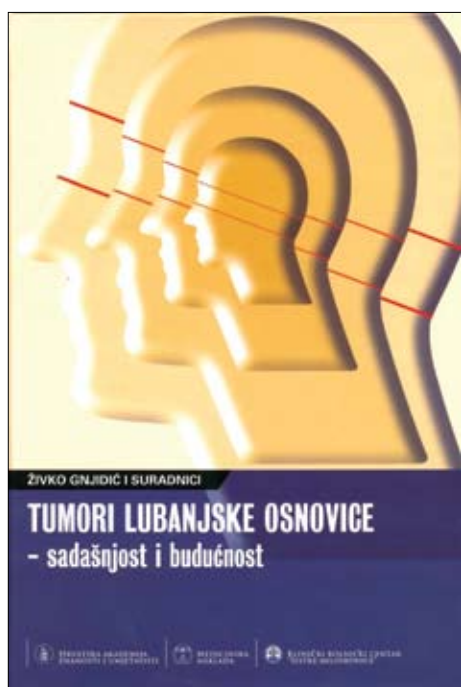


## BOOK REVIEW



### ***SKULL BASE TUMORS – PRESENT AND FUTURE***

### ***TUMORI LUBANJSKE OSNOVICE – SADAŠNJOST I BUDUĆNOST,***

***by Živko Gnjidić et al., Editors. Clinical Department of Neurosurgery, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Department of Medical Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Medicinska naklada, Zagreb, 2012, hard cover, 234 pages, 89 figures and 17 tables.***

ISBN 978-176-578-7 (MN), ISBN 978-953-154-150-3 (HAZU)

Although anatomically restricted, skull base poses great challenge to numerous medical experts, which in fact inspired the writing of this book. Due to their histologic differences as well as various clinical presen-

tations, skull base tumors are the area of interest for many medical specialties requiring multidisciplinary approach in diagnosis as well as in treatment. The increasing availability of new diagnostic methods, especially neuroradiological methods such as computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), has enabled detection of ever more cases of new skull base tumors. As these tumors seem to be more frequent than previously thought, they take on a new dimension of a public health problem. With improved visualization of tumors and surrounding structures, surgeons are able to use more aggressive resection methods, thus achieving higher cure rates. More aggressive resection does not necessarily mean more resection. Due to advances in surgical methods and the concept of minimal invasiveness, best results are accomplished by maximal tumor removal with minimal surgical trauma, hence making surgical resection the golden standard in therapy of skull base tumors. There are very dynamic and noteworthy changes occurring in this field of medicine, emphasizing the interdisciplinary approach as well as individualized therapy for each patient. This book is an excellent overview of what is up to date in this field and what is to be expected in the future.

The book *Skull Base Tumors – Present and Future (Tumori lubanjske osnovice – sadašnjost i budućnost)* is a collection of papers presented at a multidisciplinary scientific symposium held on November 23, 2010, with sponsorship from Clinical Department of Neurosurgery, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, and Department of Medical Sciences, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Croatia. The publishers, Clinical Department of Neurosurgery, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, Department of Medical Sciences, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Croatia, and Medicinska naklada have provided us with a very nice and well-designed book. The book has 20 chapters and 234 pages. It is illustrated with 89

figures (38 color), 17 tables and 549 references. Promotion of the book was held on November 22, 2012 at the Academy of Science and Arts Library, with the authors, editor, reviewers, publishers, invited medical and scientific experts interested and working in the field of skull base tumors.

This valuable book for the first time in our literature provides expert and scientific multidisciplinary approach to this important medical field, hence justifying its appearance and enhancing the value for our society. Book editors, academician Šime Spaventi, Professor Mirko Šamija, Professor Mladen Belicza and Professor Vladimir Petric describe this book as the most comprehensive scientific overview of skull base tumors to date. The texts have good structure and logically form a good unit with excellent and numerous citations, thus creating a valuable basis for research. The book encompasses clinical and scientific analysis of own medical cases with critical analysis of the used and so far published literature, thus making it comparable to similar books published elsewhere in the world while making it unique in Croatia. The book is intended primarily for various specialists who deal with skull base tumors as well as subspecialists, residents and post-doctoral students involved in diagnosing and treating patients with skull base tumors. Most important, this book offers excellent literature for colleagues about to enter this field of medicine.

Professor Živko Gnjidić, book editor, used great skill in uniting 19 very interesting chapters into a well-written and smoothly flowing book while offering an innovative vision of the near and real future of this field of medicine.

An interesting historical overview reminds the reader that the first recorded curiosities in this field were done by Leonardo da Vinci's anatomical studies, while most significant milestones in neurosurgery

occurred in the past hundred years. Epidemiological data indicate that the relative rarity and location of skull base tumors are factors not to be overseen on differential diagnosis of neurological symptoms varying from headache to disturbances in hearing, swallowing and speech, and many others. A vast variety of symptoms is a reflection of histologic differences causing morphological diversity and biological behavior.

This book offers valuable points of view and experiences of neurosurgeons, oncologists, ophthalmologists, maxillofacial surgeons as well as ENT specialists. All authors have used very clear and explicit way of describing difficulties in diagnostic and therapeutic approach to skull base tumors. Each group of authors present the problem of skull base tumors from the perspective of their unique area of specialty in a critical and scientific way, all the while emphasizing the need for multidisciplinary approach. Reconstructive methods and implantation materials used in treating morphological and functional defects are described in detail. Special attention is paid to rehabilitation of patients following skull base surgery. Great value of this book is in the synopsis of contemporary molecular and biologic methods, gene therapy and applied nanotechnology as well as developmental course of applied oncology and radiosurgery. Like in most advanced medical centers, the authors agree on the importance of individualized therapy procedures based, among other things, on molecular and genetic tumor characteristics.

This valuable book has added greatly to Croatian medical publishing in the field that has not been so comprehensively and professionally covered so far. The editor emphasizes that networking the knowledge, skills, equipment and creative thinking provides a guarantee in treatment advances for the demanding cases of skull base tumors.

*Maša Malenica*