

Re: Side Effects of Whole Brain Radiation

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.cancer/2005-01/0286.html>

From: Bob Allison (*totalyfake_at_somewhere.not*)

Date: 01/14/05

Date: Fri, 14 Jan 2005 21:50:10 GMT

On Mon, 10 Jan 2005 04:47:38 GMT, Kim <kim@tonnet.org>
wrote:

>It has been 10 weeks since the WBR finished but Denise is still
>experiencing dizziness, headaches and fatigue. Her doctors tell her that
>these are side-effects of the WBR but she is concerned that the symptoms
>are due to the brain tumours, either the growth of pre-existing or
>development of new lesions.
>
>Can anyone share their experiences of side-effects of WBR? Are Denise's
>experiences consistent with those of other patients? Or should she be
>asking for another MRI to assess the disease status and to see if
>Radiosurgery is indicated? If her side-effects are within the range of
>normal can they be medicated (e.g. I had a friend with a primary brain
>tumour for which she took Epilim to control headaches and seizures)?

Hi Kim,

I had WBR last January to treat brain mets from SCLC. Indeed I had all of the side effects you mentioned, and still have a little dizziness once in a while, and headaches when I spend too much time in front of the computer and/or TV. My equilibrium is sometimes a little off and I often (8-10 times a day) forget what I walked in the room to do or get. The fatigue was the last thing to leave. I still get out of breath more than I think I should, but overall I have "recovered" from the treatment. I think the symptoms I have now will be with me the rest of my life. It took a long time (8 or 9 months) for the fatigue to diminish.

The brain does not absorb dead tissue as quickly as the rest of the body, but I my most recent follow-up was only 8 weeks post treatment, and there was no sign of the tumor. It was very small (5mm) to start with. I am on a 3 month checkup cycle. I suspect that is what Denise is on too. that seems to be pretty much the standard for the first year of cancer or mets. Of course it varies from doctor to doctor and patient to patient. but I would be asking the Dr. when my next MRI will be.

Bob

Dx SCLC March 29,2003

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Carboplatin&VP-16 6 rounds 3 week cycle
Concurrent RT to chest
Transfusion 2 units July 15 2003
Transfusion 2 units date unknown
NED October 20,2003
Mets in cerebellum January 13,2004
Whole Brain Radiation
NED January 22,2004
NED April 23, 2004
NED July 26,2004
Mets to brain Nov 4, 2004
Referred to Stanford Nov 10, 2004
CyberKnife Treatment Nov 16, 2004
Brain MRI Jan 7 2005
NED Jan 10, 2005

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WARNING: consumption of alcohol may lead you
to think people are laughing WITH you.
Bob
In Carmel, CA