Case 2005-10

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Diagnosis: Clear cell ependymoma

Comment: This bifrontal mass was cystic. Tumor cells were strongly positive for glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) on ICC, and occasional cells were also positive for EMA. There were zones of necrosis in the tumor, but no palisading necrosis. The Ki-67 labeling index was 3%. Tumors of this sort infrequently cross the midline. They are most commonly supratentorial, and they may have aggressive behavior. As with this tumor, clear cells ependymomas usually have sharp borders on histological examination.

From the Presenter: Clear cells are well known as a focal change in ependymomas, but tumors composed primarily of these cells (clear cell ependymoma) are rare. The differential diagnosis includes metastatic clear cell tumors, hemangioblastoma, neurocytoma and oligodendroglioma (which is what many of these tumors are mistakenly labeled).

References:
