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Retinoblastoma: The comparison of two classification and staging systems

Teixeira, L.F., Erwenne,C.M. **I**ntroduction: Retinoblastoma is the most common ocular tumor in childhood. For designing initial therapy for this tumor we have some classification and staging systems to use. An ideal system for retinoblastoma should be capable of predicting the likelihood of successful treatment for any new case.

Purpose: To compare two classification systems for retinoblastoma: The Reese-Ellsworth classification, the most widely used system (developed in the 1950's to predict the survivability of the eye after external beam radiation) and The ABC system (a newly proposed classification of intraocular retinoblastoma).

Methods: 25 consecutive patients with retinoblastoma (52% with unilateral tumors) admitted from January to October 2001 in the Ocular Tumor Service/UNIFESP were examined. We classified all the tumors using the two different systems and compared the treatment proposed by each one.

Discussion: We have found differences between the treatments proposed for some cases mainly in the bilateral group. Both classification systems failed in establishing firm rules for all the cases. The management of retinoblastoma can be extremely complex and some patients must be individualized according to the entire clinical situation.