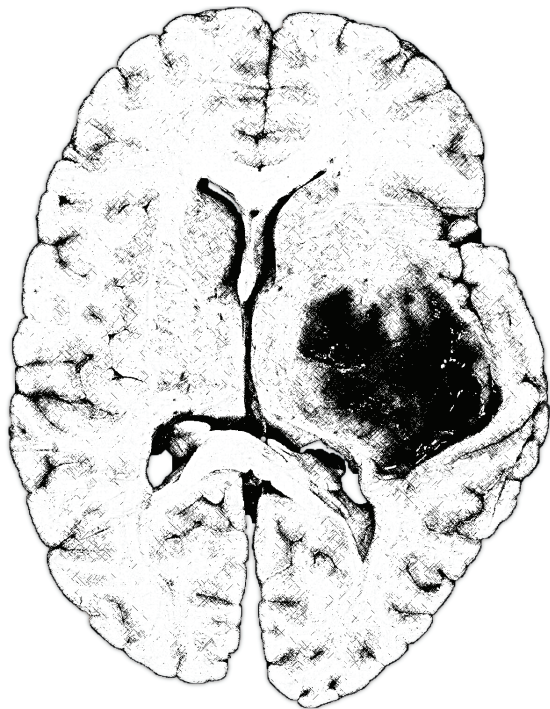


Glioblastoma MRI



Glioblastoma Autopsy



Thank you for considering a brain autopsy.

If you have additional questions or concerns,
please call:

8 AM - 4 PM weekdays: 403-944-4745

After hours: 403-944-1689

See also: sacri.ucalgary.ca

Clark H. Smith Tumour and Tissue Bank
University of Calgary

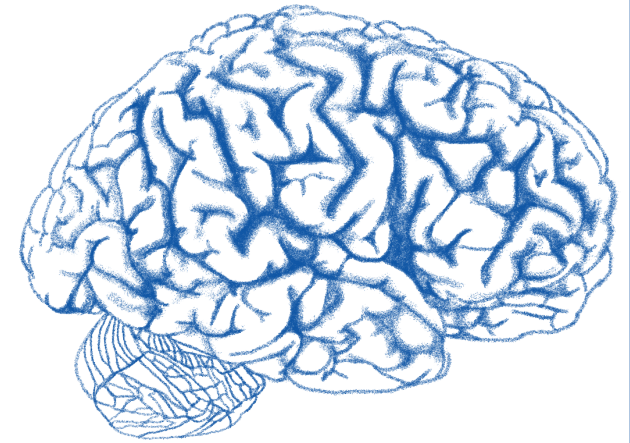
Health Research Innovation Centre,
Room 2A25

3330 Hospital Drive NW

Calgary, Alberta T2N 4N1

Phone: 403-210-6423

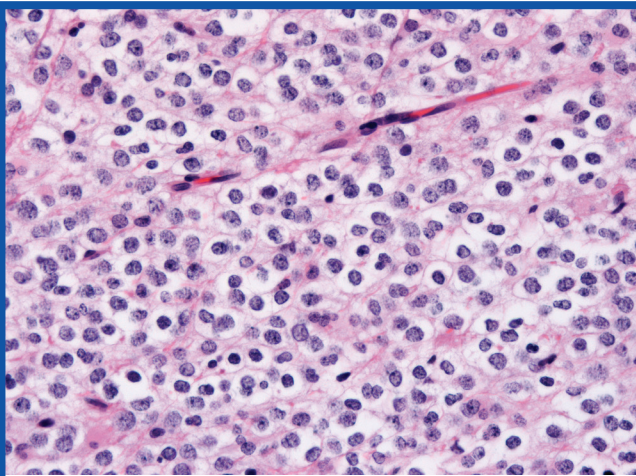
Email: btbank@ucalgary.ca



How We Learn From

The Brain

Neurooncology Clinic

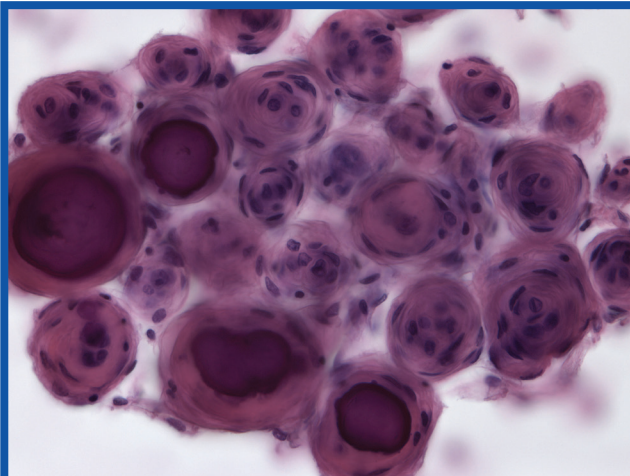


Oligodendroglioma Histology

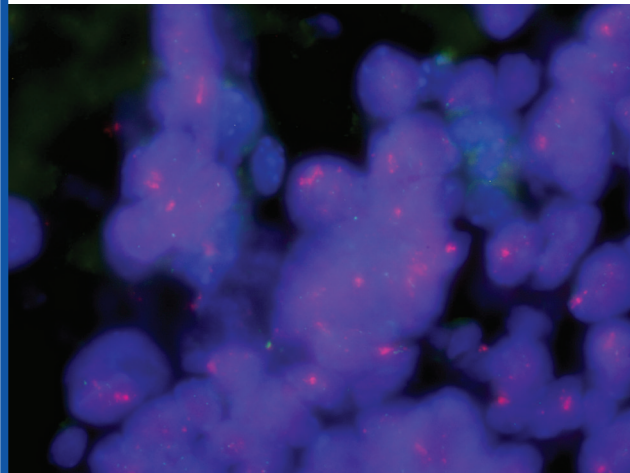


Anaplastic oligodendroglioma cell line spectral karyotyping, showing abnormal chromosomes (each chromosome should have an identical pair).

Autopsies on brain tumour patients are important. They help show the extent of the disease in the brain, the changes in the brain caused by the tumour, and the effectiveness of therapies. They also can provide tissue to scientists studying the biology of brain tumours and potential new therapies.



Meningioma psammoma bodies



Paediatric brain tumour fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH), showing amplification of C19MC locus (multiple red dots per nucleus).

Doctors have very little information about the effectiveness recent or new brain tumour therapies at a cellular level or on the surrounding brain tissue. An autopsy permits study of the effectiveness of therapies on the tumours. It can also identify the full extent of tumour throughout the brain. Brain tumours often change over time, especially after different therapies; an autopsy allows scientists to study these changes.

Allowing for tissue to be used for research enables scientists to examine both brain tumour and adjacent tissues. The Southern Alberta Cancer Research Institute (SACRI) and the Clark H. Smith Brain Tumour Centre at the University of Calgary are actively investigating brain tumours to search for better therapies and ultimately cures. Brain tumour tissue for research will be donated to the Clark H. Smith Brain Tumour Bank.

Important Information

- An autopsy is an examination of the body after death. It is done as soon as possible after a patient expires and takes from one (brain only) to four hours (full autopsy). A neuropathologist, who is a medical doctor with special training, inspects the brain, takes appropriate samples, examines them under a microscope, orders appropriate tests, and prepares a written report that includes the diagnosis. This can take several months.
- The patient's next of kin must give permission for an autopsy. Alberta Health Services requires family and a physician to complete a special consent form. This form **MUST BE SIGNED AFTER** a patient passes away.
- Alberta Health Services does not charge for an autopsy on a patient who is an Alberta resident or is covered by Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan. All autopsies in the Calgary Zone are performed at Foothills Medical Centre. If you request an autopsy, your funeral home will contact Foothills Medical Centre to make all arrangements.
- The findings from the autopsy are provided to the patient's physicians and will be shared with you.
- Should you consent to an autopsy, please consider allowing some tissue to be used for research and teaching. A check-box on the autopsy consent form will indicate your wishes.