- Glial tumors are broadly classified into astrocytomas, oligodendrogliomas, and ependymomas. Increasing tumor malignancy is associated with more cytologic anaplasia, increased cell density, necrosis, and mitotic activity. There are distinct associations between combinations of genetic alterations in tumors and morphologic appearance; some of these also carry prognostic significance.
- Metastatic spread of brain tumors to other regions of the body is rare, but the brain is not comparably protected against spread of distant tumors. Carcinomas are the dominant type of systemic tumors that metastasize to the nervous system.

SUGGESTED READINGS

General

In general, many areas of neuropathology and neurologic diseases are well covered in the following standard texts:

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Wadsworth JD, Collinge J: Molecular pathology of human prion disease. *Acta Neuropathol* 121(1):69–77, 2011.

Demyelinating Diseases

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Mitsdoerffer M, Kuchroo V, Korn T: Immunology of neuromyelitis optica: a T cell-B cell collaboration. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 1283:57–66, 2013.

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