

Microsurgery of Skull Base Paragangliomas: A Comprehensive Guide

Skull base paragangliomas (SBPs) are rare, slow-growing neuroendocrine tumors that arise from the paraganglia, which are clusters of cells located along the skull base. Paraganglia are part of the autonomic nervous system and are responsible for regulating blood pressure, heart rate, and digestion. SBPs can occur anywhere along the skull base, but the most common locations are the temporal bone (40%), jugular foramen (30%), and carotid body (20%).

SBPs are typically benign, but they can cause a variety of symptoms, depending on their location. These symptoms can include:

- Hearing loss
- Tinnitus
- Vertigo
- Facial paralysis
- Difficulty swallowing
- Hoarseness
- Headache
- Neck pain

SBPs are diagnosed based on a combination of clinical symptoms, physical examination, and imaging studies, such as magnetic resonance imaging

(MRI) and computed tomography (CT).



Microsurgery of Skull Base Parangliomas by Adolph Barr

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Microsurgery is the gold standard treatment for SBPs. It is indicated in patients who have symptomatic tumors or tumors that are at risk of becoming symptomatic. Microsurgery can also be used to treat recurrent SBPs.

Microsurgery is a minimally invasive surgical technique that uses a microscope and specialized instruments to remove the tumor. The goal of microsurgery is to remove the tumor while preserving the surrounding nerves and blood vessels.

The type of microsurgical approach used will depend on the location of the tumor. The most common approaches are the transcranial approach, the transtemporal approach, and the transjugular foramen approach.

- **Transcranial approach:** This approach is used to remove tumors that are located in the middle or posterior skull base. The surgeon makes an incision in the back of the skull and removes the bone to access the tumor.

- **Transtemporal approach:** This approach is used to remove tumors that are located in the temporal bone. The surgeon makes an incision in the side of the head and removes the bone to access the tumor.
- **Transjugular foramen approach:** This approach is used to remove tumors that are located in the jugular foramen. The surgeon makes an incision in the neck and removes the bone to access the tumor.

Microsurgery is a complex procedure, and there are risks associated with it. These risks include:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Nerve damage
- Stroke
- Death

The risk of complications depends on the location of the tumor and the experience of the surgeon.

The outcomes of microsurgery for SBPs are generally good. Most patients are able to return to their normal activities within a few weeks of surgery. The long-term survival rate for patients with SBPs who undergo microsurgery is over 90%.

Microsurgery is the gold standard treatment for SBPs. It is a complex procedure, but it is associated with good outcomes. Patients who are

considering microsurgery for SBPs should discuss the risks and benefits of the procedure with their surgeon.



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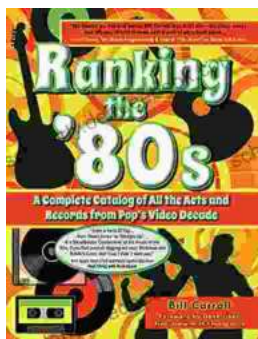
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