



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Fellowship Examination 2010

Neurosurgery

Written Paper One

Wednesday 25 August 2010

Reading Time:

Writing Time:

QUESTION BOOK

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Questions</i>	<i>Number of Questions to be Answered</i>
One - Essay Questions	1	1
Two - Short Answer Questions	2	2

Candidates are permitted to bring into the examination room:

- Pens
- Pencils
- Erasers

Candidates are not permitted to bring into the examination room:

- Blank sheets of paper
- White-out liquid/tape

Materials supplied:

- Question Book of 3 pages
- Answer Book

Instructions to candidates:

- Write your candidate number on the front of each Answer Book.
- Write your response in the Answer Book provided.
- All answers must be written in English.

At the end of the examination, candidates are to leave the Question Book and Answer Book on their desk.

Candidates are not permitted to remove the Question Book from the examination room.

Candidates are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised devices into the examination room.

Section One – Essay Question

Based on the following scenario, candidates are required to write one extended response discussing the following:

A 32 year male presents following a generalised seizure. Imaging (Figure 1) reveals a left parieto-occipital tumour and stereotactic biopsy is reported as WHO grade-2 oligodendroglioma. Studies for 1P19Q confirm loss of heterozygosity.

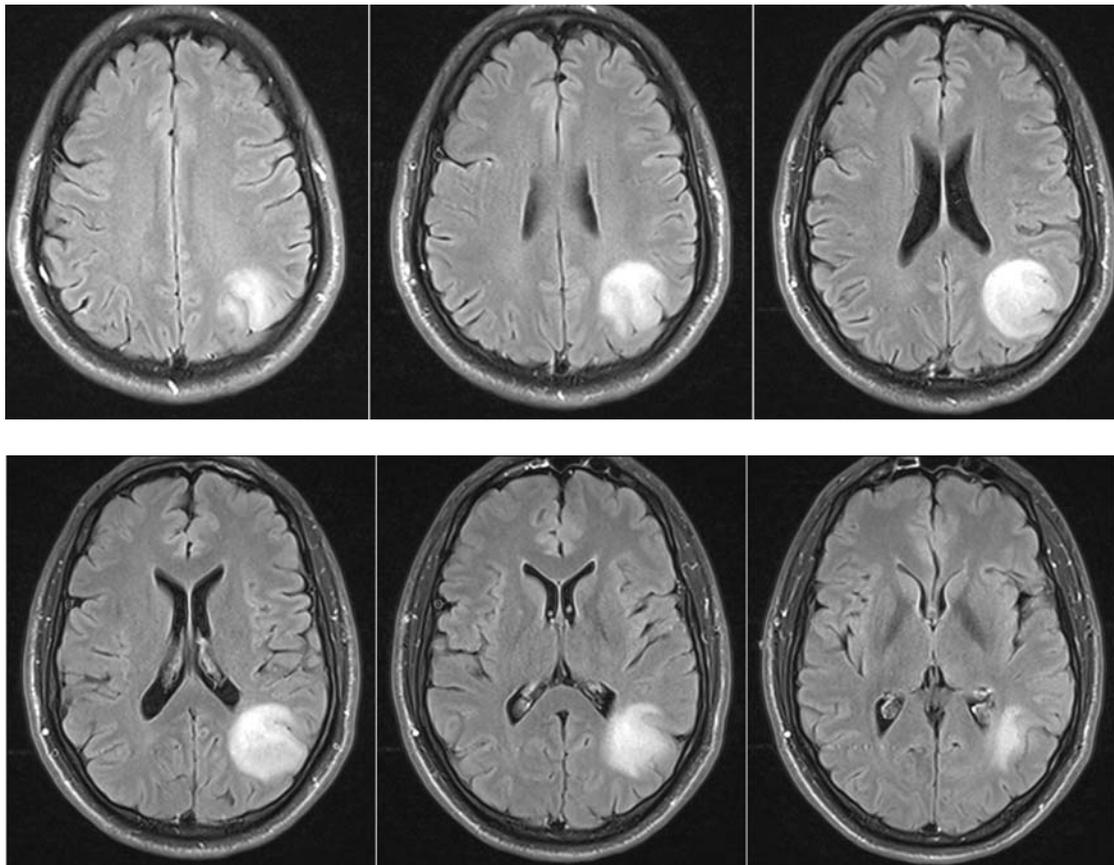


Figure1. Axial Flair Images

Discuss your further management of this patient.

The patient is particularly concerned about his ability to drive. What would you advise?

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Section Two - Short Answer Questions

Question 1

Write brief notes on:

- (A) Seizure prophylaxis in closed head injury
- (B) Differentiating features between a common peroneal nerve lesion and an L5 nerve root lesion.
- (C) Pathophysiology of an evolving hemispheric mass lesion.
- (D) Pituitary apoplexy.

Question 2

Describe the embryology and anatomy of the L4/5 disc. Include consideration of its blood and nerve supply.



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Reading Time:

Writing Time:

QUESTION BOOK

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Questions</i>	<i>Number of Questions to be Answered</i>
One - Essay Questions	2	2
Two - Short Answer Question	1	1

Candidates are permitted to bring into the examination room:

- Pens
- Pencils
- Erasers

Candidates are not permitted to bring into the examination room:

- Blank sheets of paper
- White-out liquid/tape

Materials supplied:

- Question Book of 5 pages
- Answer Book

Instructions to candidates:

- Write your candidate number on the front of each Answer Book.
- Write your response in the Answer Book provided.
- All answers must be written in English.

At the end of the examination, candidates are to leave the Question Book and Answer Book on their desk.

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Section One – Essay Question

Candidates are required to write one extended response for each question. **BOTH** questions are to be answered.

Question 1

A 61 year old female presents with a twelve month history of increasing headache and more recent onset of left sided clumsiness and minor weakness. MRI scan is shown figure 1.

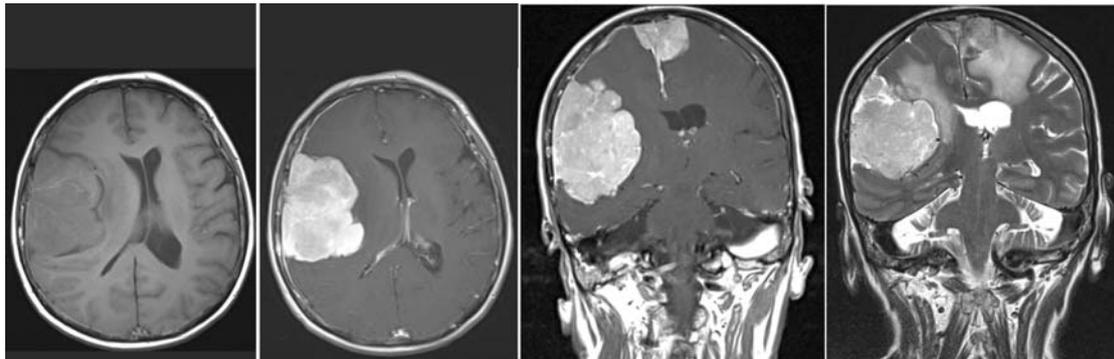


Figure 1: Pre and Post contrast axial and coronal images. Coronal T2 image.

Discuss:

- i. The likely diagnosis and your management of this case. Highlight potential problems and considerations for controlling the blood supply of the larger tumour.
- ii. Discuss your recommended management for the smaller lesion.
- iii. Histology reveals atypical meningioma. Describe how this histological information would affect your further management.

Question 2

A 62 year old woman with a past history of hypertension (on aspirin) was found unconscious in her bathroom at home. She was intubated and transferred urgently to the Emergency Department. On arrival she had a dilated, non reactive left pupil. An urgent CT scan was performed (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Non-contrast CT image.

Discuss:

- i. What are the possible diagnoses in this situation?
- ii. What do you feel is her prognosis?
- iii. What is your management plan?
- iv. What would you explain to the relatives during the consent process?

Section Two - Short Answer Questions

Question 1

Write brief notes on:

- i. Non surgical management of disabling (extremely painful) left brachialgia due to a ruptured C6/7 cervical disc.
- ii. Management of raised intracranial pressure following closed head injury.
- iii. Management of a 60 year old female with a prosthetic mitral valve replacement on Warfarin with bilateral subacute, subdural haematomas.
- iv. Scaphocephaly.