

---

# PEDIATRIC GLIOMAS—A CASE-BASED, PRACTICAL APPROACH TO USING THE WHO 2021 CLASSIFICATION

CYNTHIA HAWKINS, MD, PHD, FRCPC

DIVISION OF PATHOLOGY, LABATT BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH CENTRE, THE HOSPITAL  
FOR SICK CHILDREN, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, CANADA



# DISCLOSURE

- I have nothing to declare

## OBJECTIVES - AT THE END OF THIS TALK YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1

Approach the workup of a pediatric glioma

2

Apply the changes in the new WHO classification of CNS tumors as it applies to gliomas

3

Integrate molecular and morphologic data to generate a layered neuropathologic diagnosis

# WHO 2016

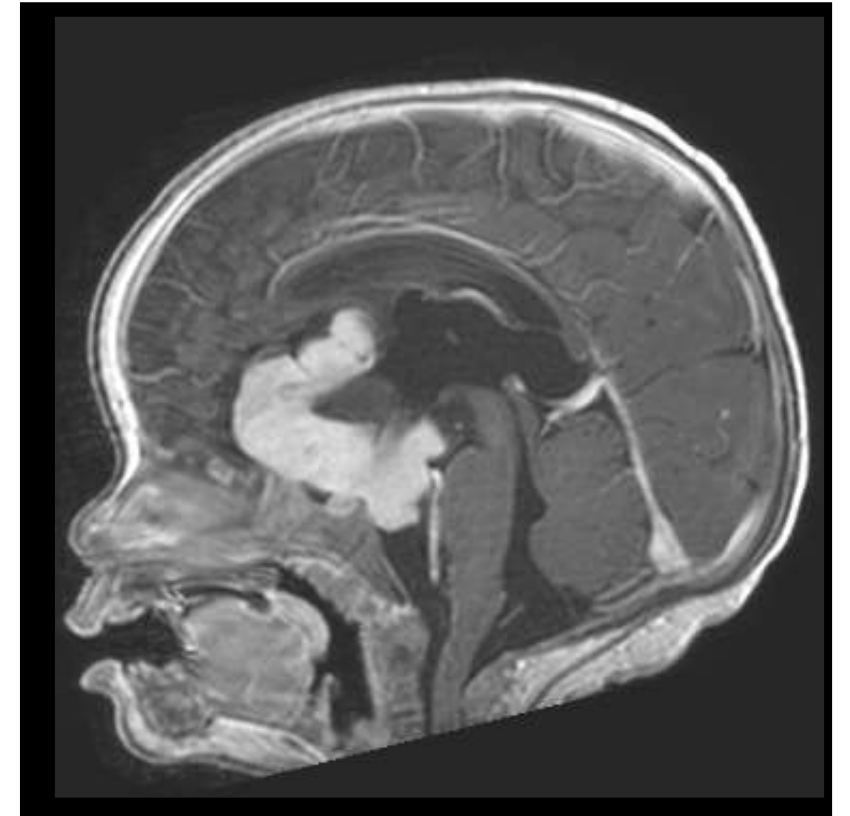
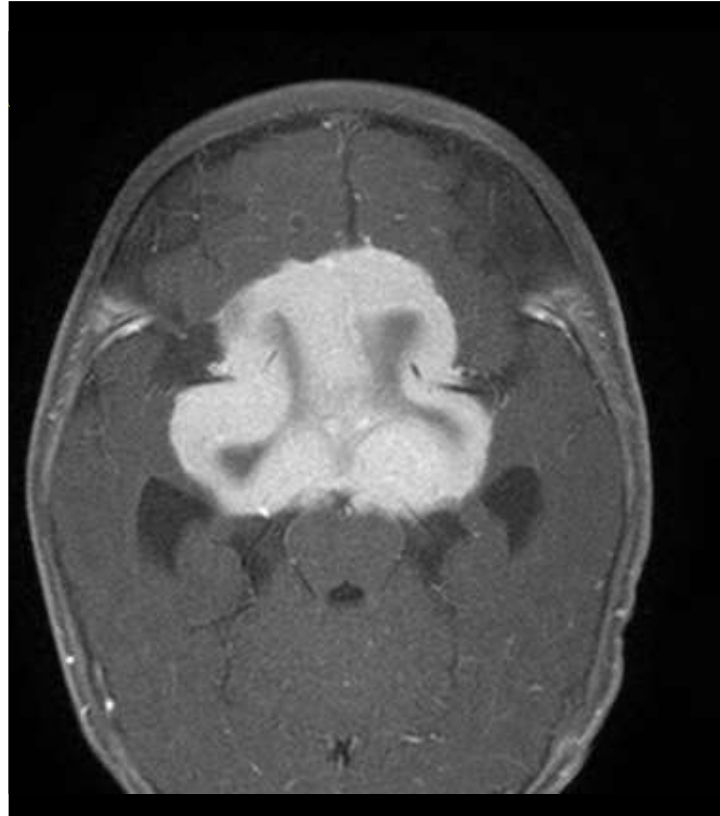
- Major goal of 2016 WHO was formulating concept of how CNS tumour diagnoses could be structured in the molecular era
- Integrated Diagnosis – incorporating molecular and morphologic data
- Incorporation of molecularly defined entities

# WHO 2021 – WHAT'S NEW FOR PEDIATRICS

- Major restructuring of **diffuse gliomas**:
  - Incorporation of distinct pediatric-type vs adult-type entities
  - Additional molecularly-defined entities
- Restructuring of **ependymomas** to recognize distinct location-based and molecular entities
- Additional molecularly-defined **embryonal tumors**
- Move away from assigned grades based on entity name to grading within an entity

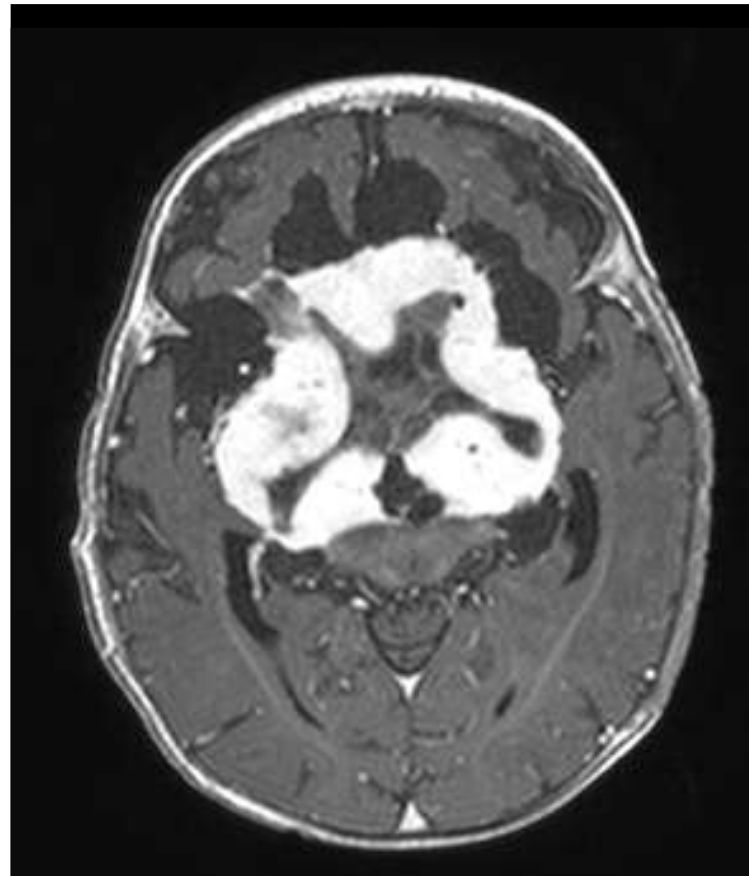
## CASE 1

- 3-month-old girl presented with diencephalic syndrome and nystagmus

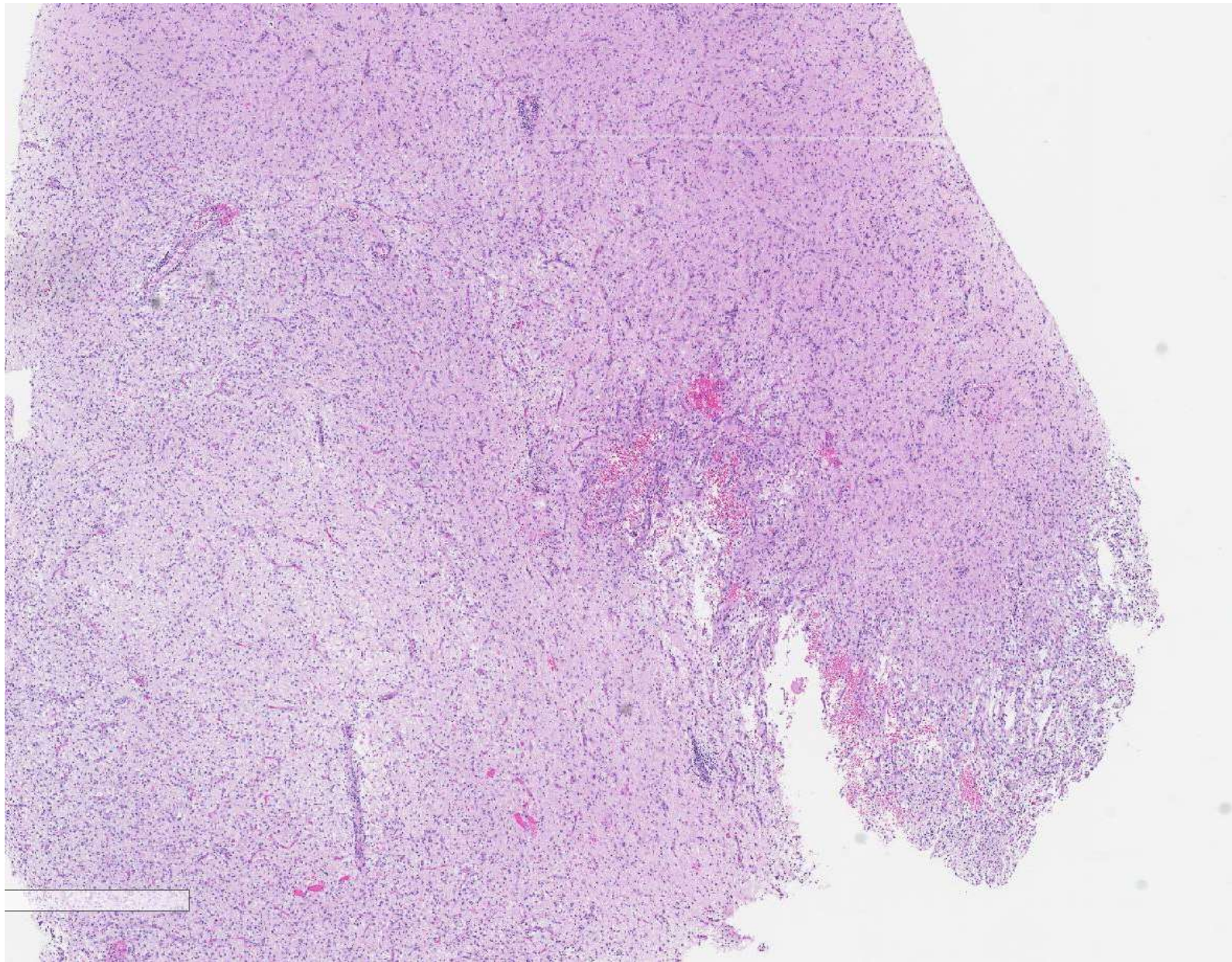


## CASE I

- Rapid clinical deterioration despite chemotherapy (Vinblastine)
- Biopsy

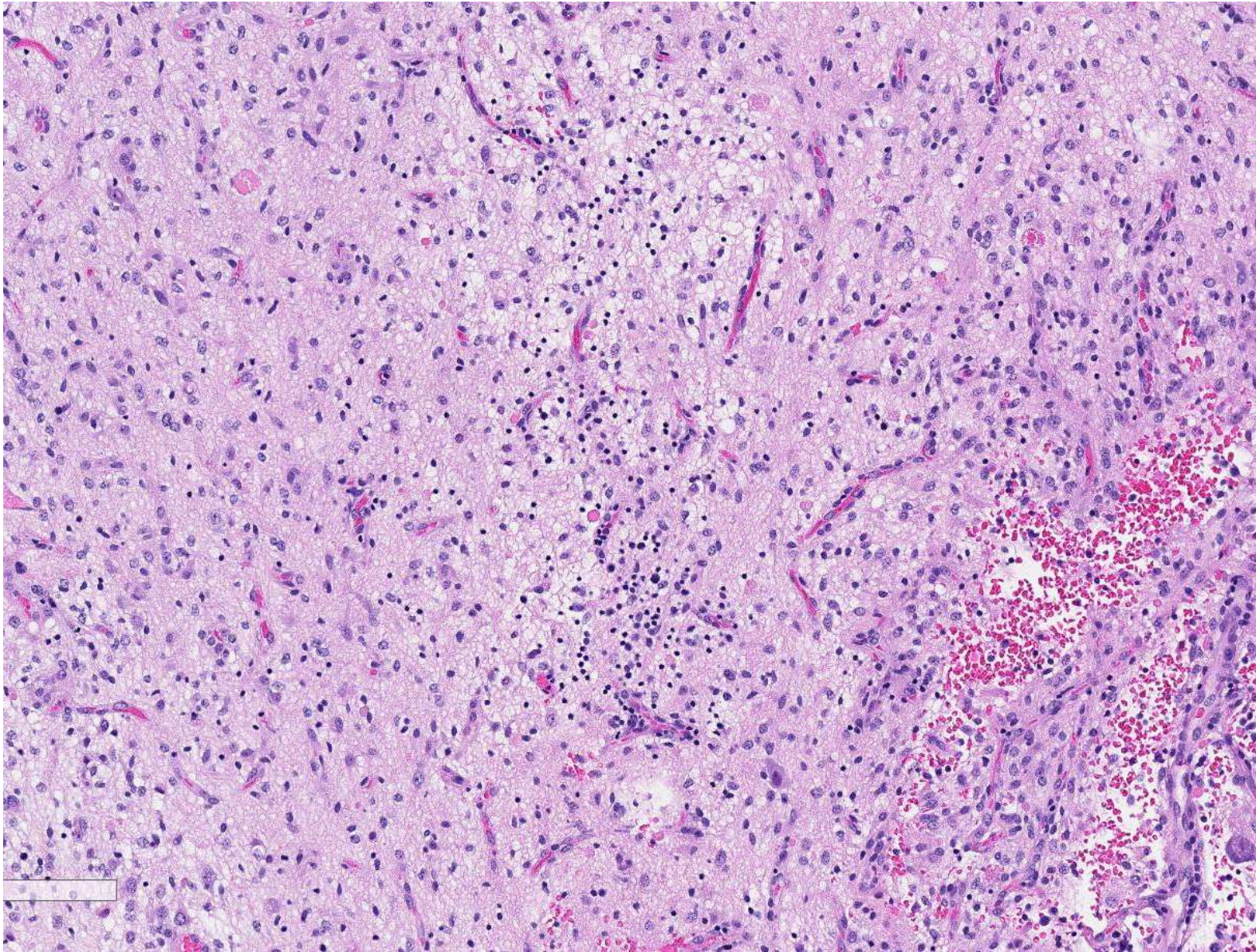






# CASE 1 - BIOPSY

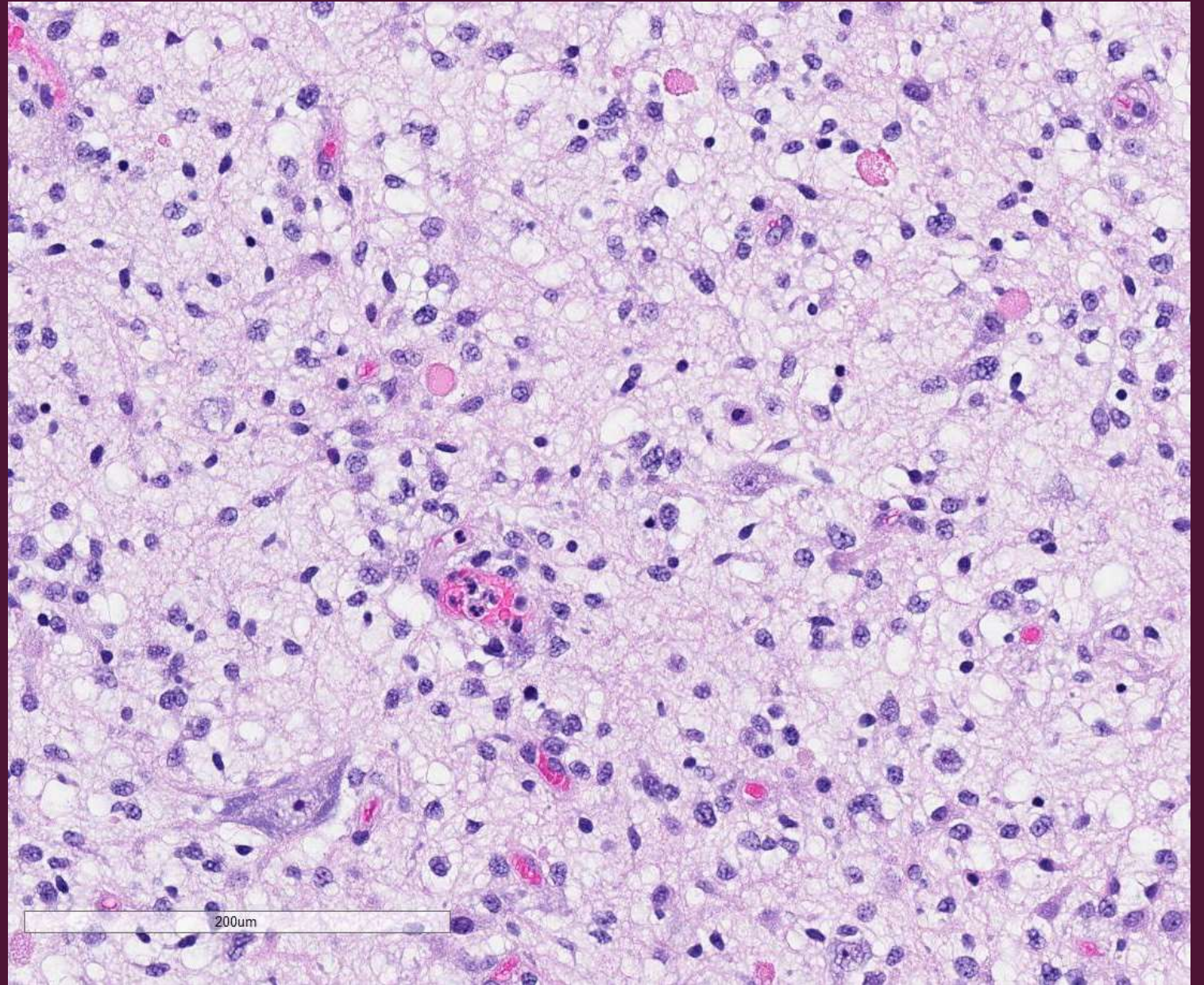




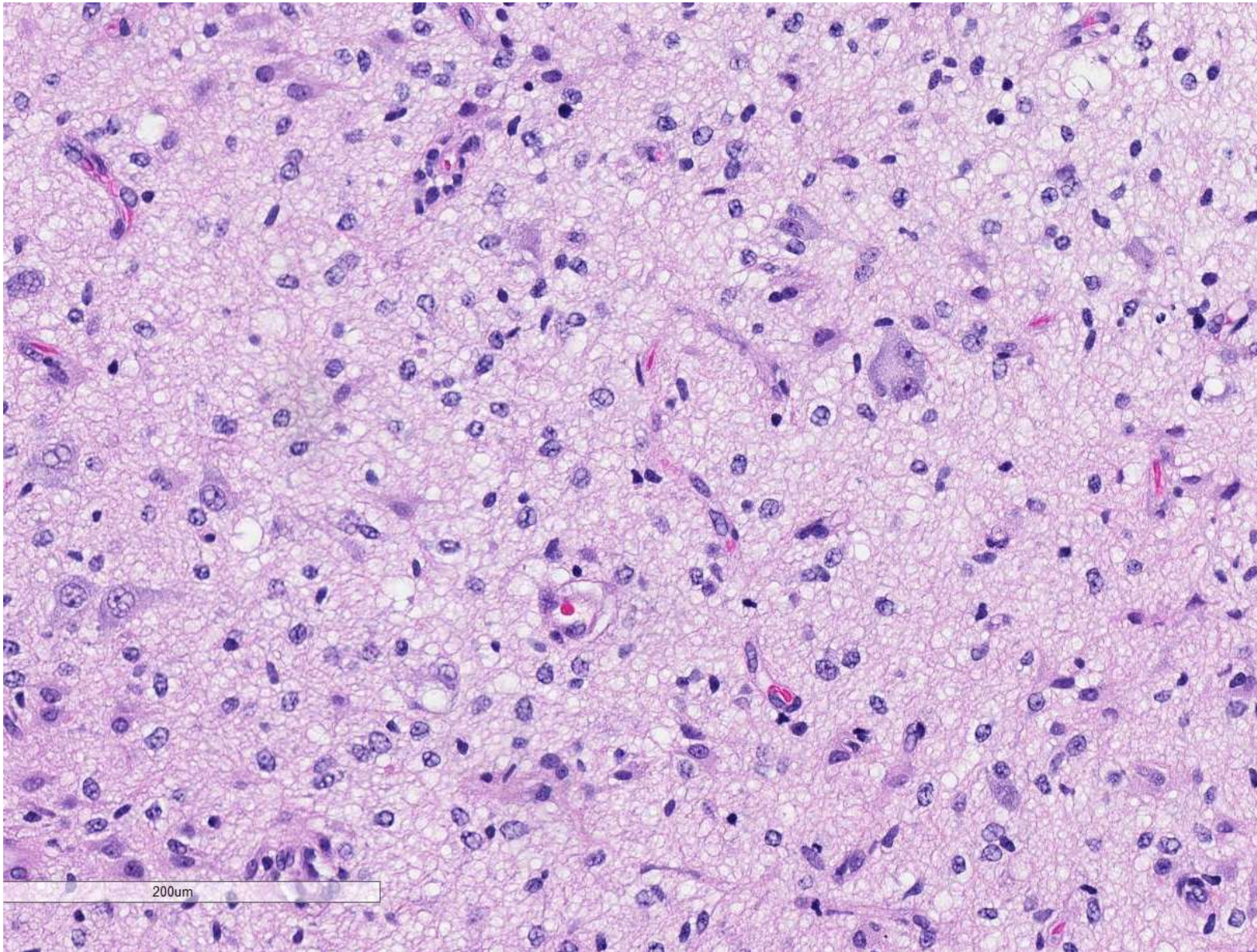
## CASE I- BIOPSY



# CASE I - BIOPSY

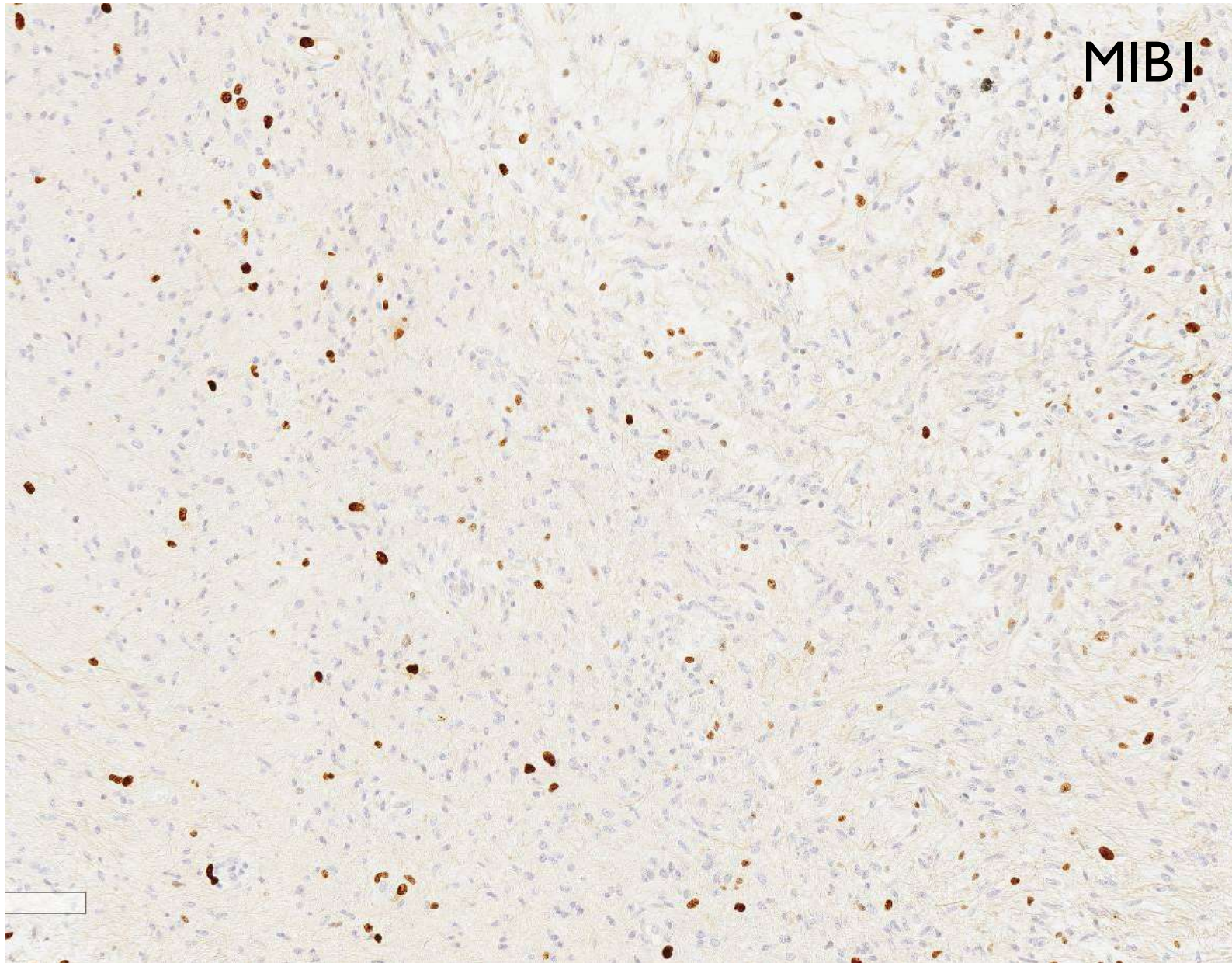






## CASE I- BIOPSY



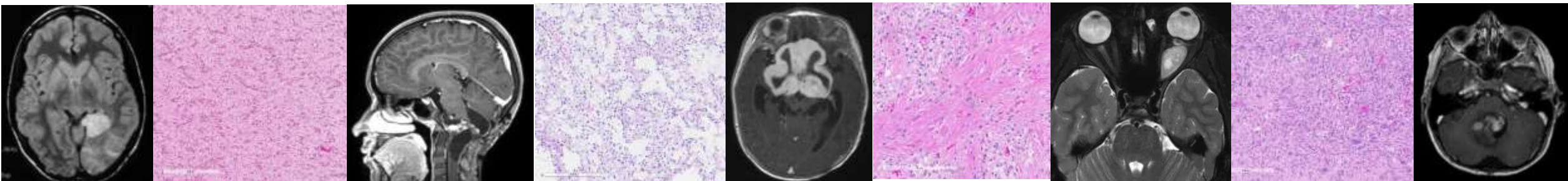


MIB I

# CASE I - BIOPSY

## PEDIATRIC LOW GRADE GLIOMA – GENERAL CONCEPTS

- Most common CNS neoplasm in children
- Distinct from adult “lower grade glioma”
- Histologically diverse group of tumors arising throughout CNS
- Now categorised under one of Paediatric-type diffuse low-grade gliomas, Circumscribed astrocytic gliomas or Glioneuronal and neuronal tumours



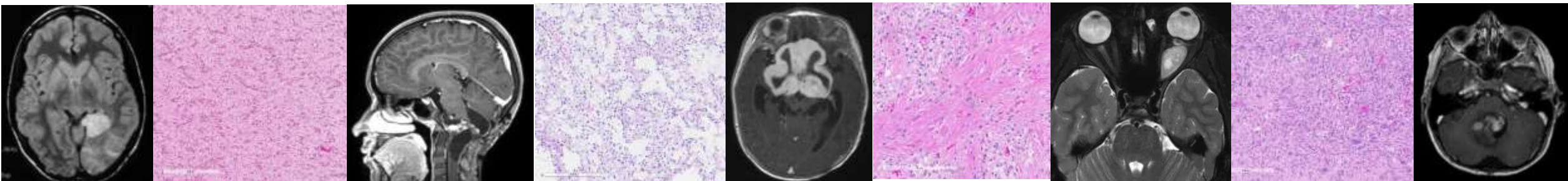


# CLASSIFICATION OF GLIOMAS

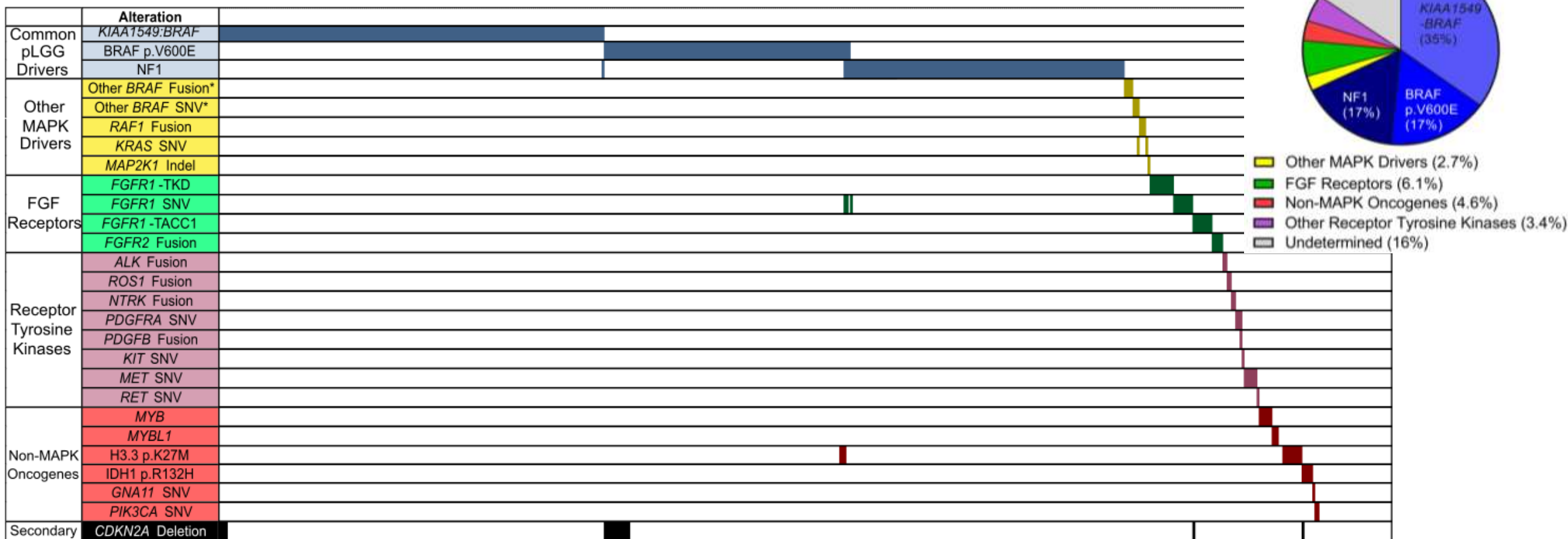
- **Adult-type diffuse gliomas**
  - Astrocytoma, IDH-mutant
  - Oligodendroglioma, IDH-mutant and 1p/19q-codeleted
  - Glioblastoma, IDH-wildtype
- **Paediatric-type diffuse high-grade gliomas**
  - Diffuse midline glioma, H3 K27-altered
  - Diffuse hemispheric glioma, H3 G34-mutant
  - Diffuse paediatric-type high-grade glioma, H3-wildtype and IDH-wildtype
  - Infant-type hemispheric glioma
- **Paediatric-type diffuse low-grade gliomas**
  - Diffuse astrocytoma, MYB- or MYBL1-altered
  - Angiocentric glioma
  - Polymorphous low-grade neuroepithelial tumour of the young
  - Diffuse low-grade glioma, MAPK-altered
- **Circumscribed astrocytic gliomas**
  - Pilocytic astrocytoma
  - High-grade astrocytoma with piloid features
  - Pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma
  - Subependymal giant cell astrocytoma
  - Chordoid glioma
  - Astroblastoma
- **Glioneuronal and neuronal tumours**
  - Ganglioglioma
  - DIG/DIA
  - *DGONC*
  - DNT
  - Papillary glioneuronal tumour
  - RGNT
  - *MGNT*
  - DLGNT
  - Central neurocytoma
  - Extraventricular neurocytoma

# PEDIATRIC LOW GRADE GLIOMA – GENERAL CONCEPTS

- Molecular vs Histology
- Do I really need molecular?
- What does the molecular mean?



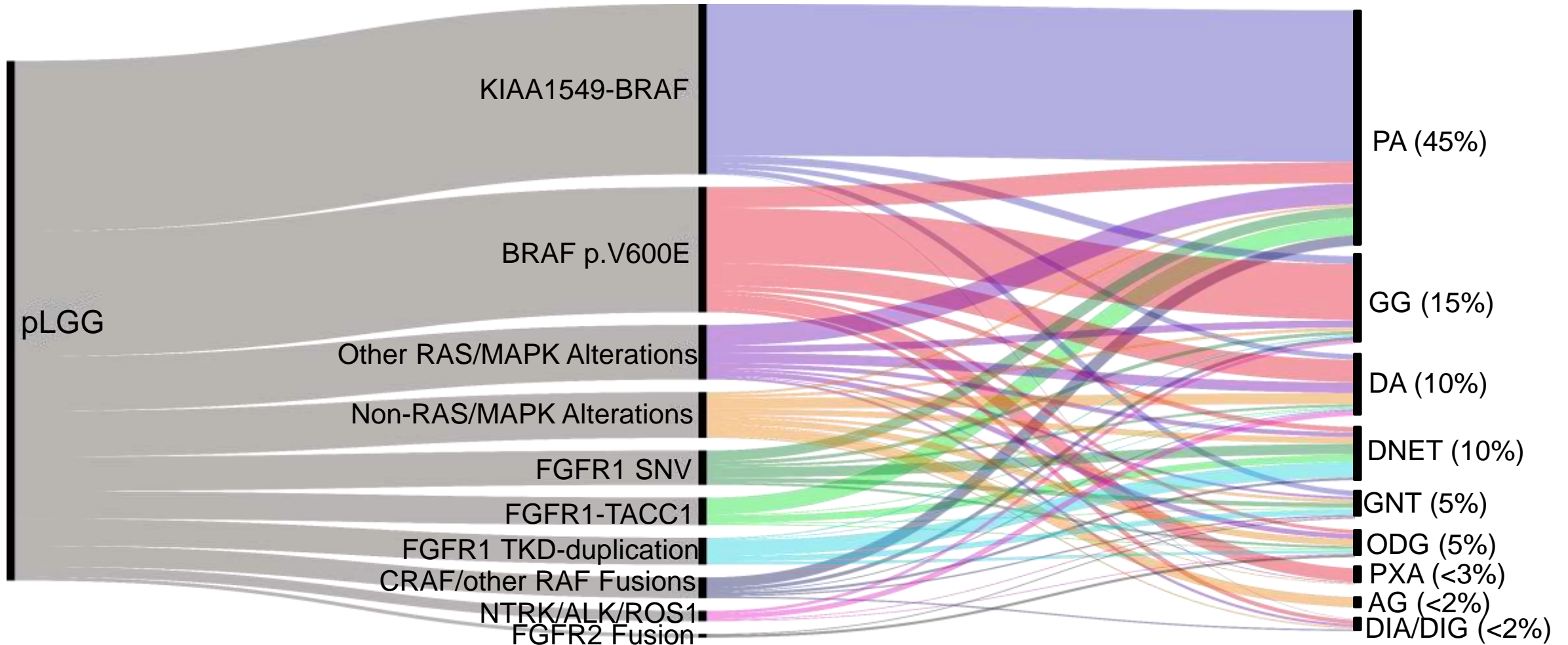
# THE MOLECULAR LANDSCAPE OF PLGG



# MOLECULAR VS HISTOLOGY: LOW GRADE GLIOMAS WITH ENRICHED MOLECULAR ALTERATIONS

<b>Tumour</b>	<b>Characteristic Gene</b>
Papillary glioneuronal tumour	<i>PRKCA</i>
Rosette-forming glioneuronal tumour	<i>FGFR1</i> & <i>PIK3CA</i>
Myxoid glioneuronal tumour	<i>PDGFRA</i>
Diffuse leptomeningeal glioneuronal tumour	<i>KIAA1549-BRAF</i> fusion, 1p del
Astroblastoma, <i>MNI</i> -altered	<i>MNI</i> fusion
Pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma	<i>BRAF</i> & <i>CDKN2A/B</i> hom del
Pilocytic astrocytoma	<i>KIAA1549-BRAF</i> , <i>BRAF</i> , <i>NF1</i>
Angiocentric glioma	<i>MYB</i> fusion
Diffuse astrocytoma, <i>MYB</i> - or <i>MYBL1</i> -altered	<i>MYB</i> , <i>MYBL1</i> fusion
PLNTY	<i>FGFR2</i> fusion

# MUTATION VS HISTOLOGY IN PAEDIATRIC LOW GRADE GLIOMA – MIX AND MATCH

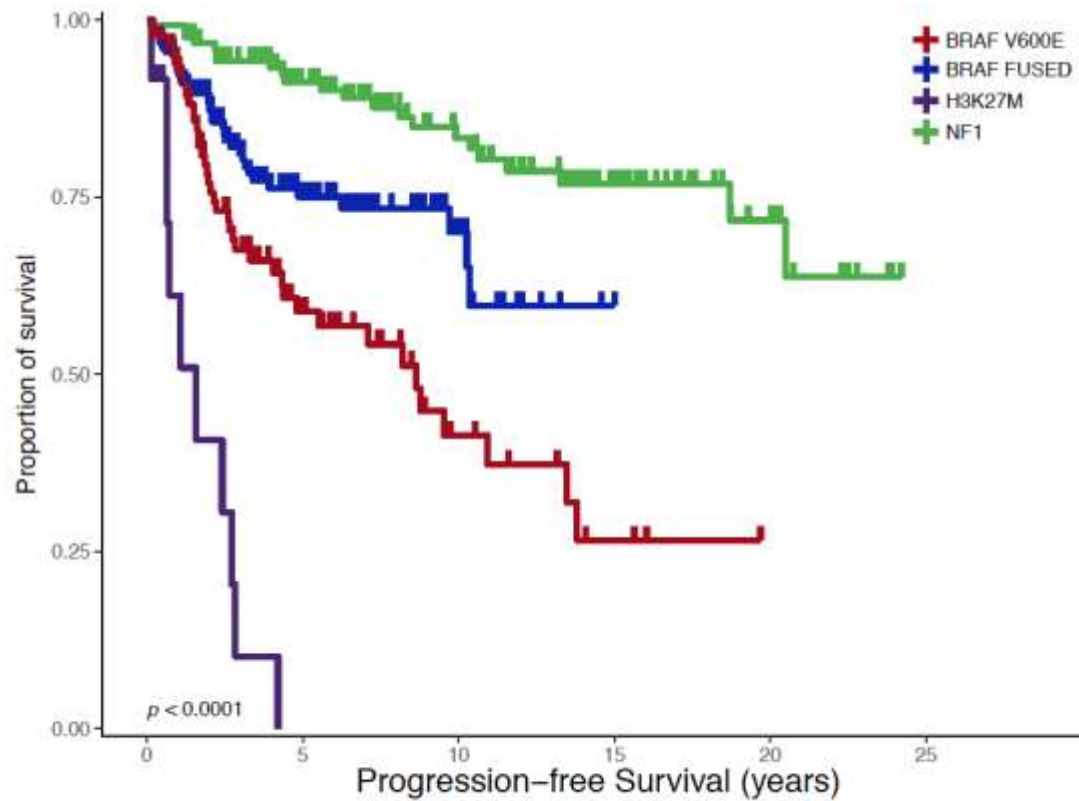




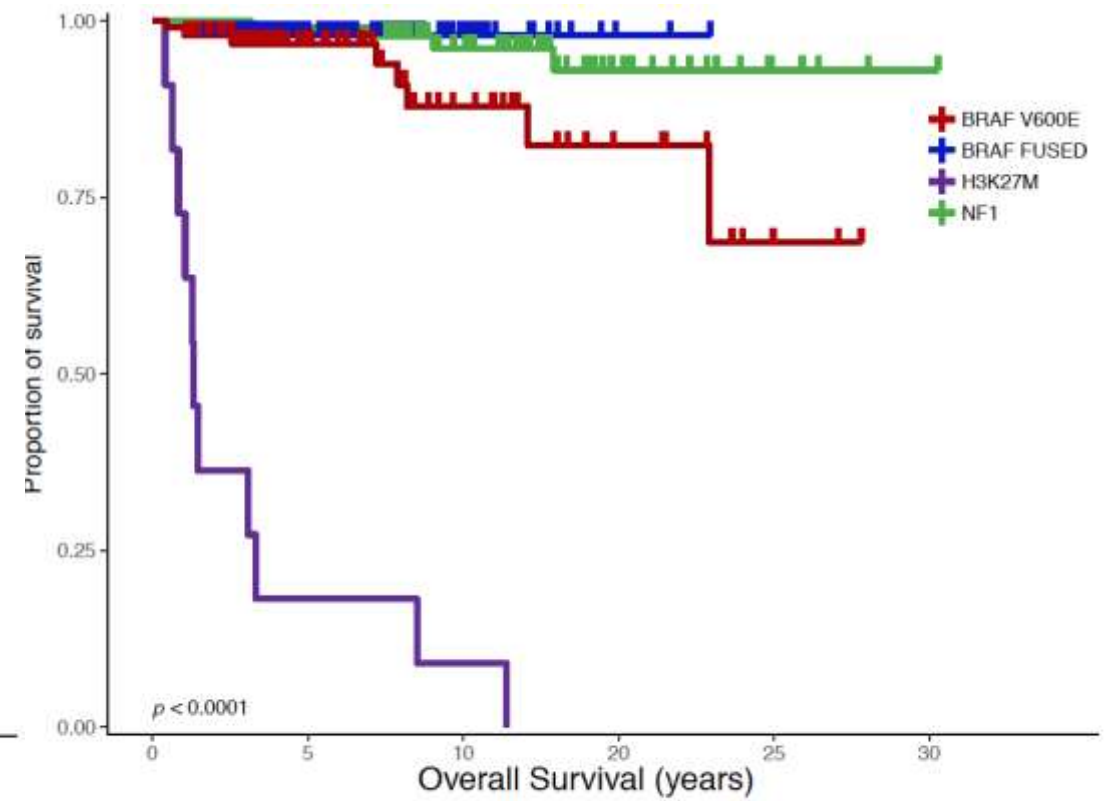
## DO I REALLY NEED MOLECULAR TESTING FOR PLGG?

- For morphologically classic entities with gross total resection, histology alone may be sufficient
- Situations where molecular characterisation is helpful:
  - Consideration is being given to radiation and need further prognostic guidance
  - Small biopsy and unsure if low grade vs high grade
  - Growing, incompletely resected lesion with potential for targeted therapeutics

# SURVIVAL VARIES BY MOLECULAR STATUS

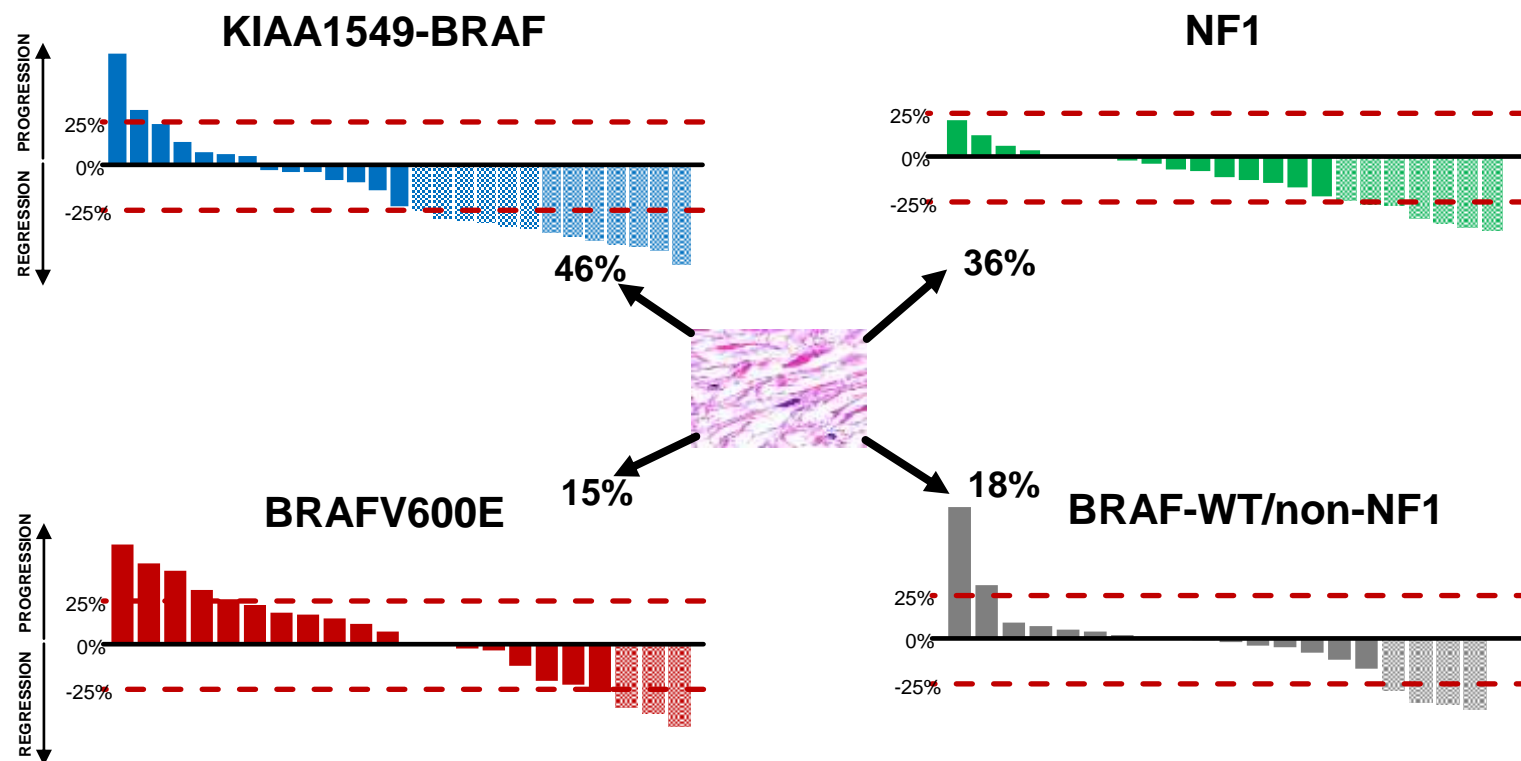


FUSED	182	61	19	1	0	0
H3K27M	12	0	0	0	0	0
NF1	126	86	55	30	12	0
V600E	107	30	11	4	0	0



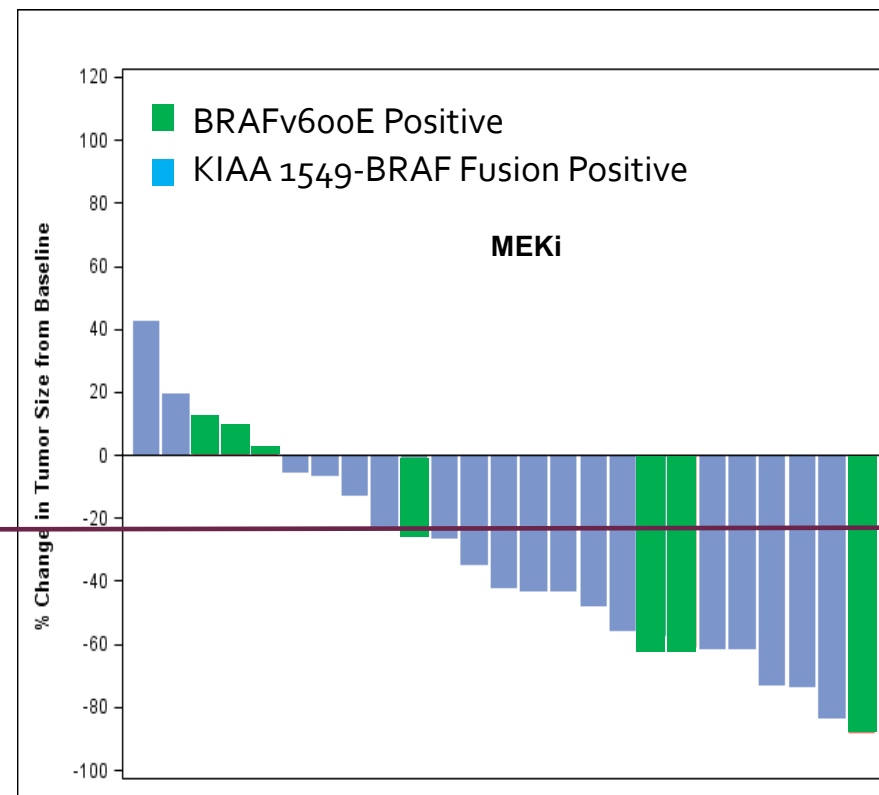
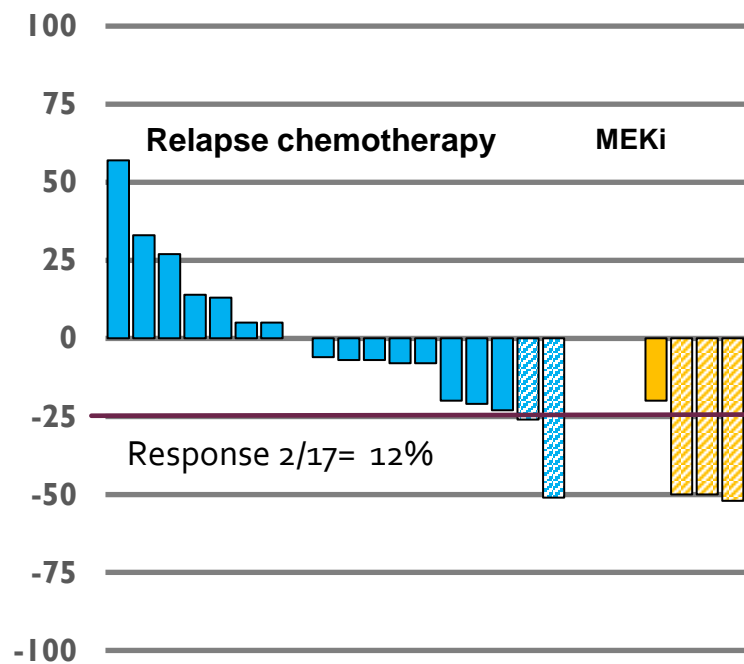
FUSED	182	67	20	2	0	0
H3K27M	12	2	1	0	0	0
NF1	127	96	53	17	4	1
V600E	109	45	23	9	2	0

# RESPONSE TO CHEMOTHERAPY VARIES BY MOLECULAR STATUS



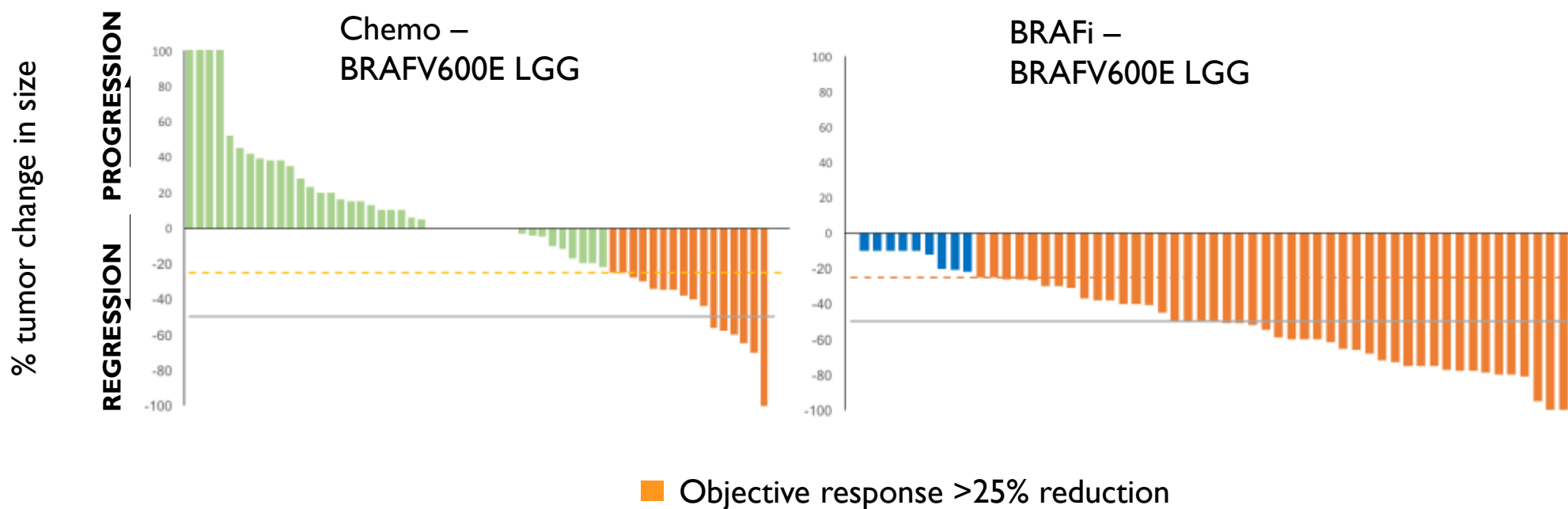
Fisher Exact test  $p=0.0226$

# RELAPSED *KIAA1549*-*BRAF* PATIENTS AND RESPONSE TO CHEMOTHERAPY VS MEKI



Response 16/25 = 64%

# RESPONSE TO TARGETED THERAPEUTICS MAY BE BETTER THAN TO STANDARD CHEMOTHERAPY

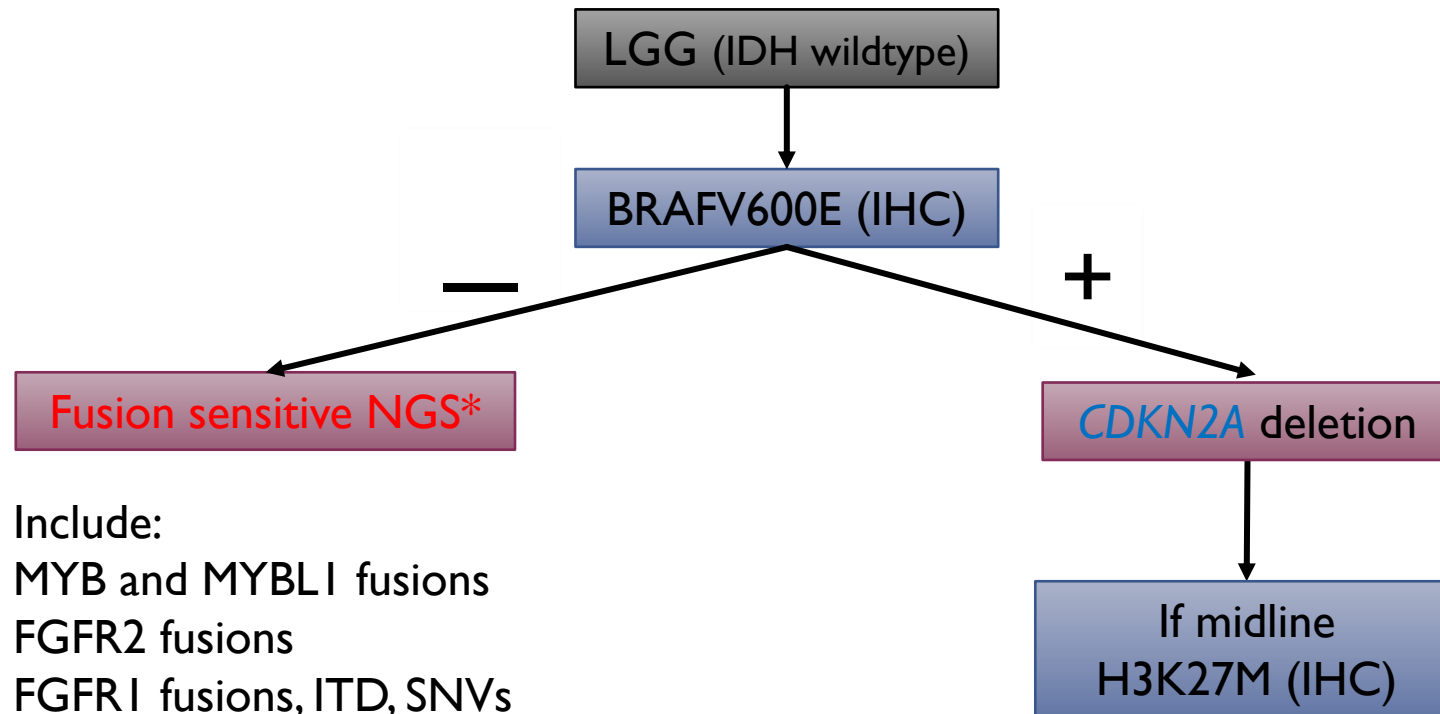


6-month response to chemo

6-month response to BRAFi



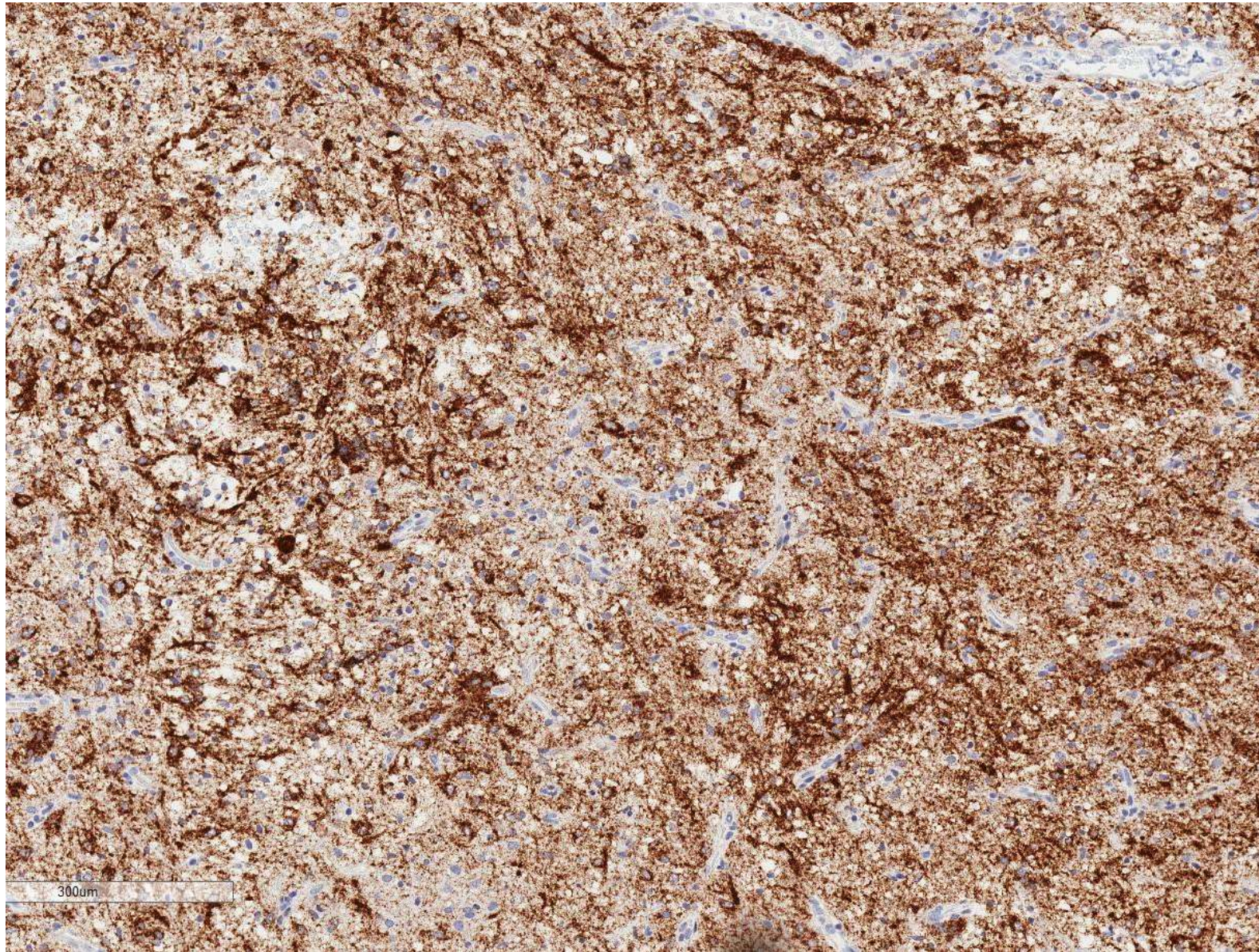
# LGG TESTING STRATEGY



Include:

- MYB and MYBL1 fusions
- FGFR2 fusions
- FGFR1 fusions, ITD, SNVs
- MNI fusions
- PRKCA fusions
- BRAF fusions and SNVs
- PDGFRA SNVs
- PIK3CA SNVs





CASE I-  
BRAFV600E

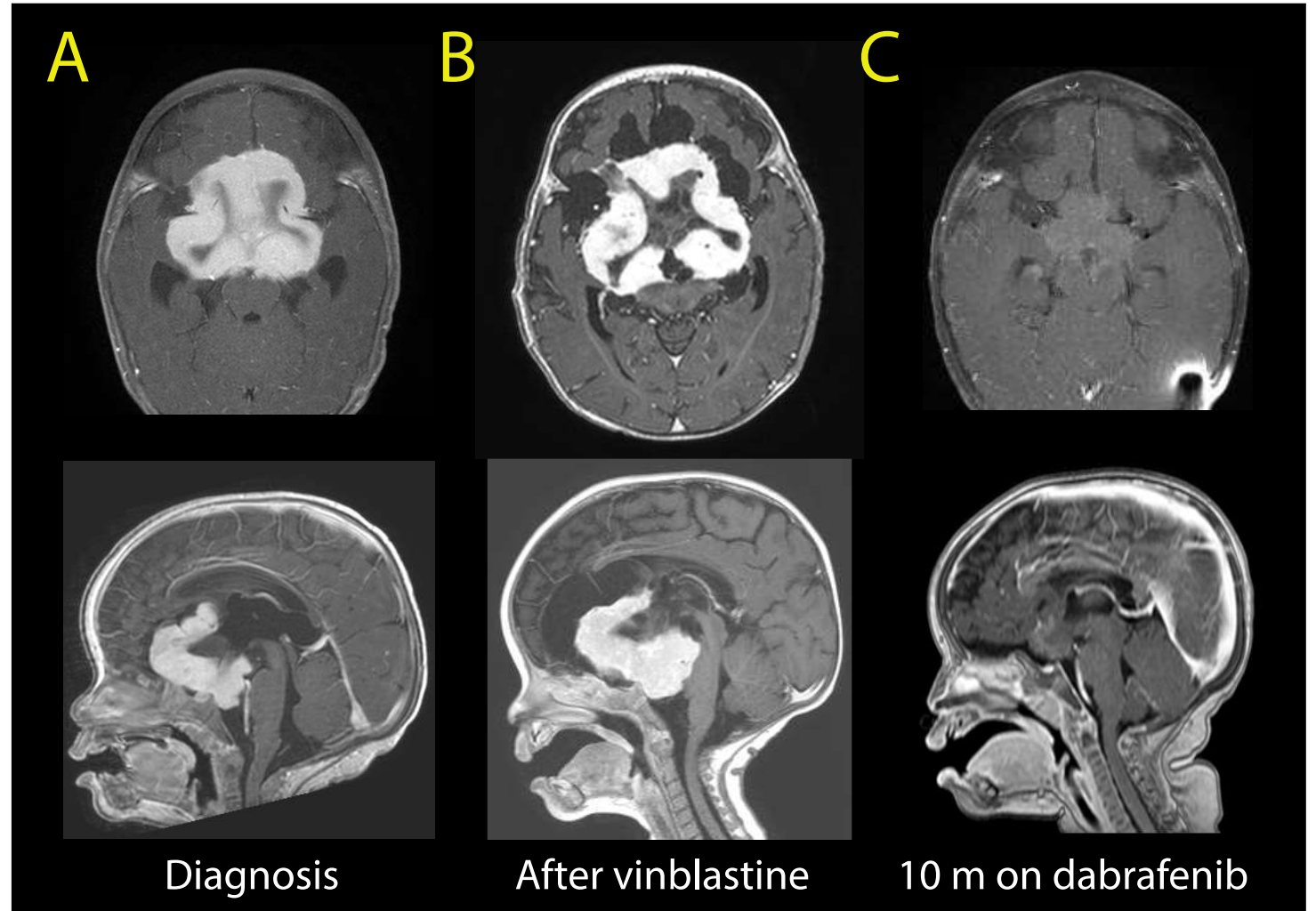


# INTEGRATED DIAGNOSIS

- Biopsy, Optic pathway/ hypothalamic mass:
  - Ganglioglioma
    - WHO grade I
    - BRAF p.V600E mutant (IHC)
    - *CDKN2A* not deleted (FISH)

## CASE I

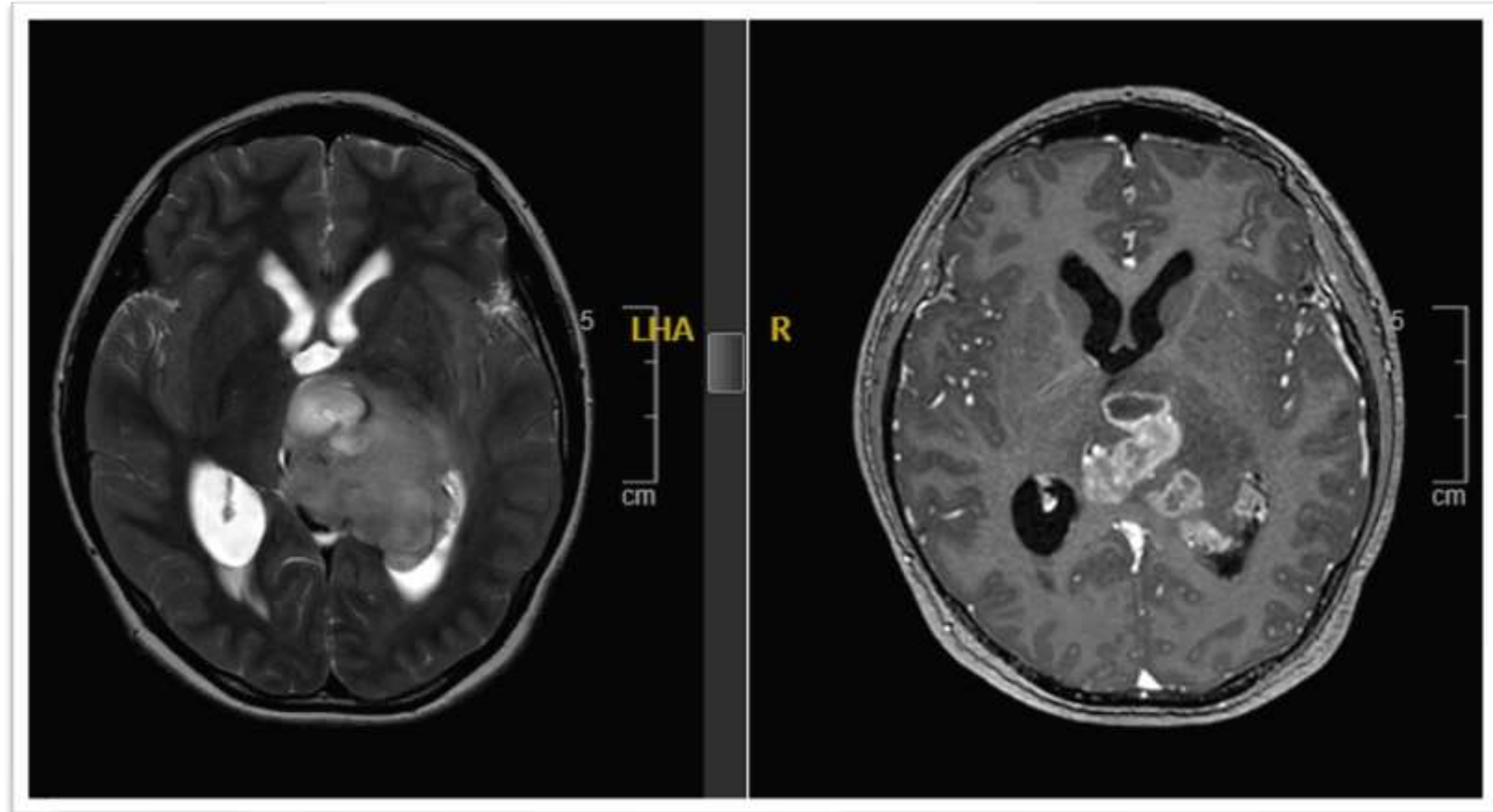
- BRAF inhibitor started when the patient was critically ill in ICU
- Prompt clinical and radiological response
- Improvement of diencephalic syndrome (calorimetry normal), normal vision
- Currently on therapy 6 years later doing well



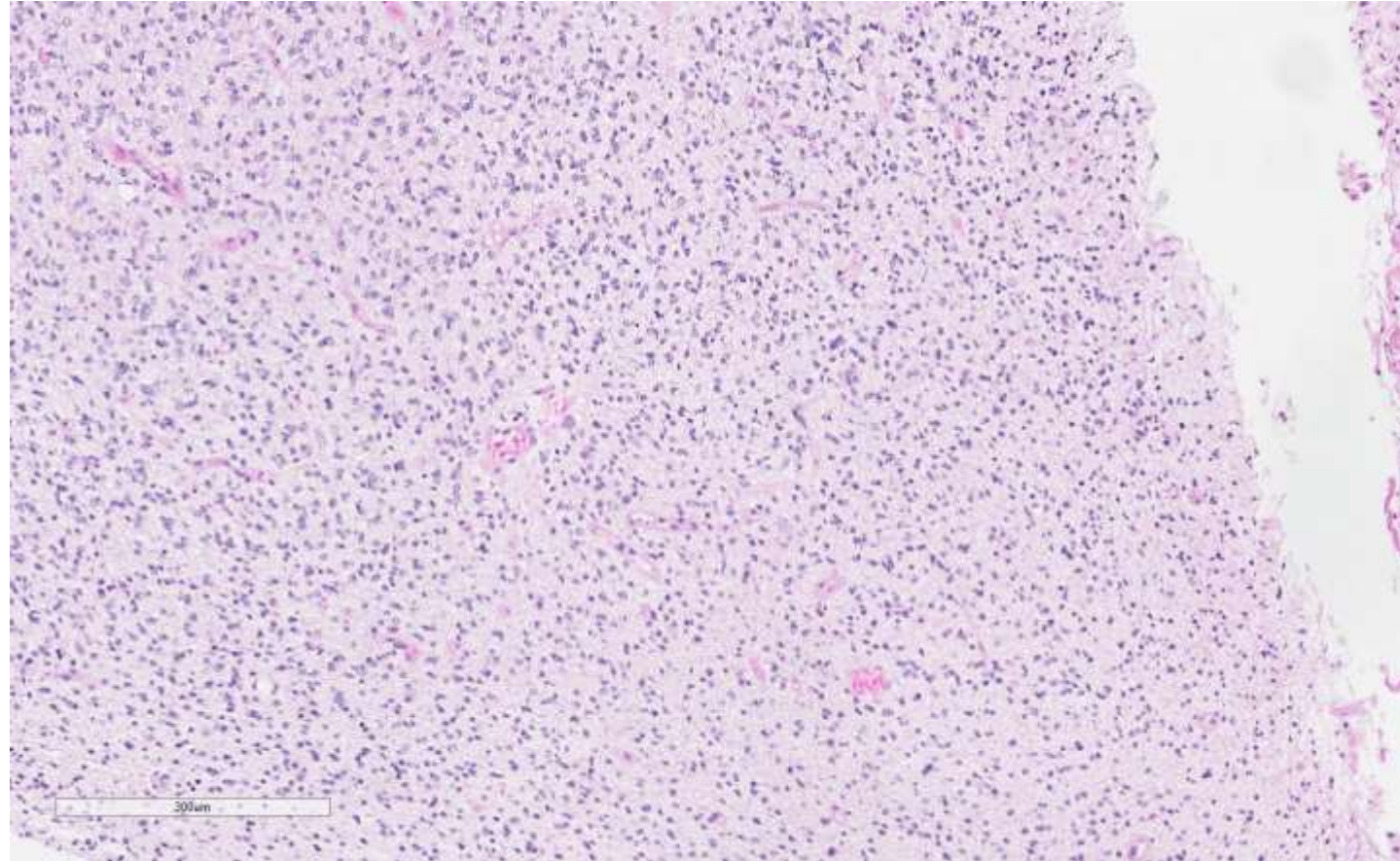
## CASE 2

12 yr old female presented with

- Headaches and vomiting x 4 week
- Diplopia and blurry vision x 2 weeks
- Examination
  - Bilateral papilledema
  - No other neurological deficit

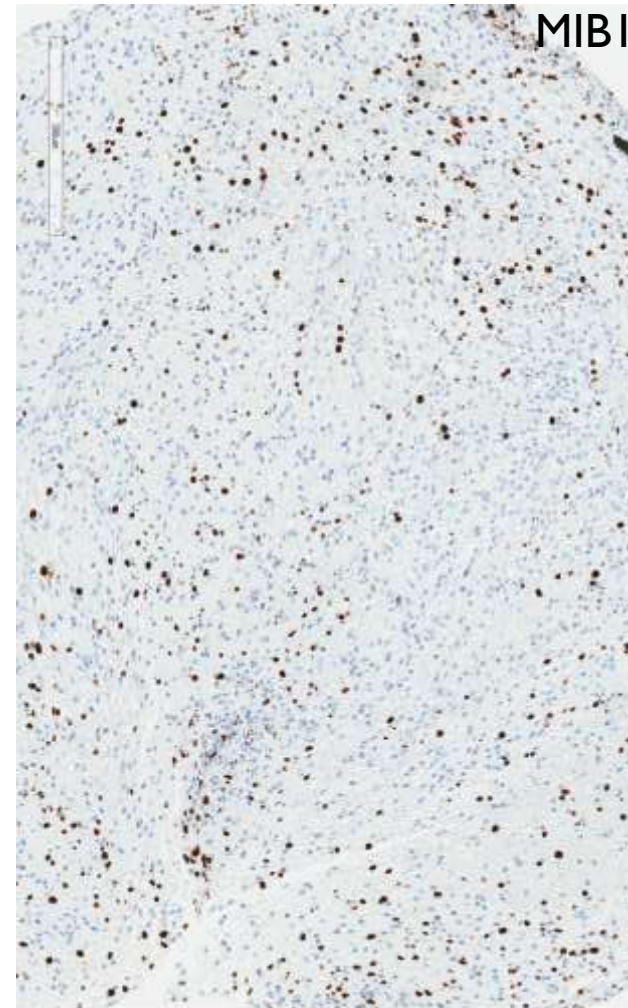
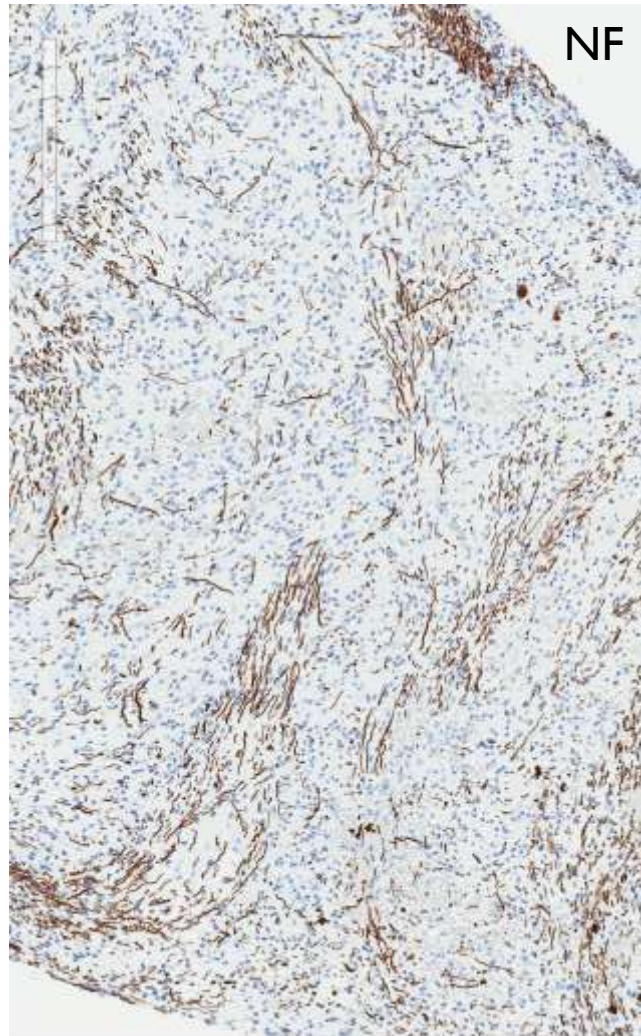


## CASE 2 - BIOPSY





## CASE 2- IHC

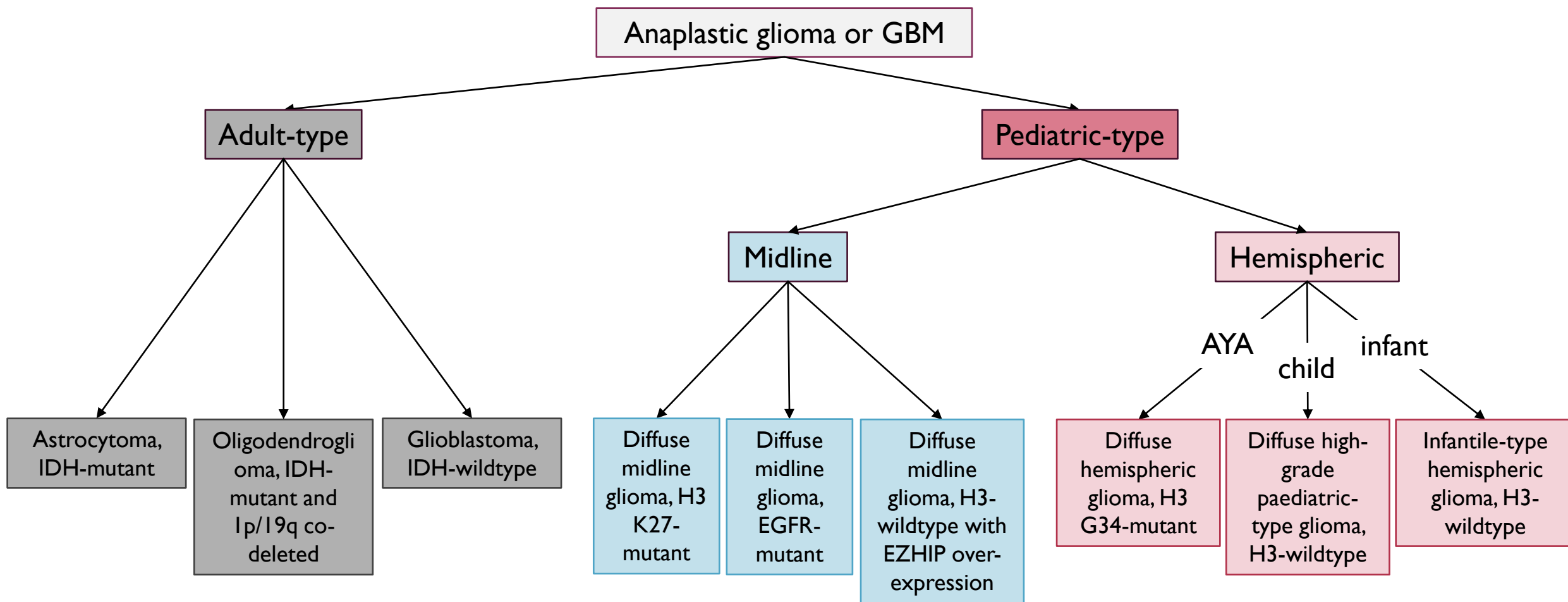




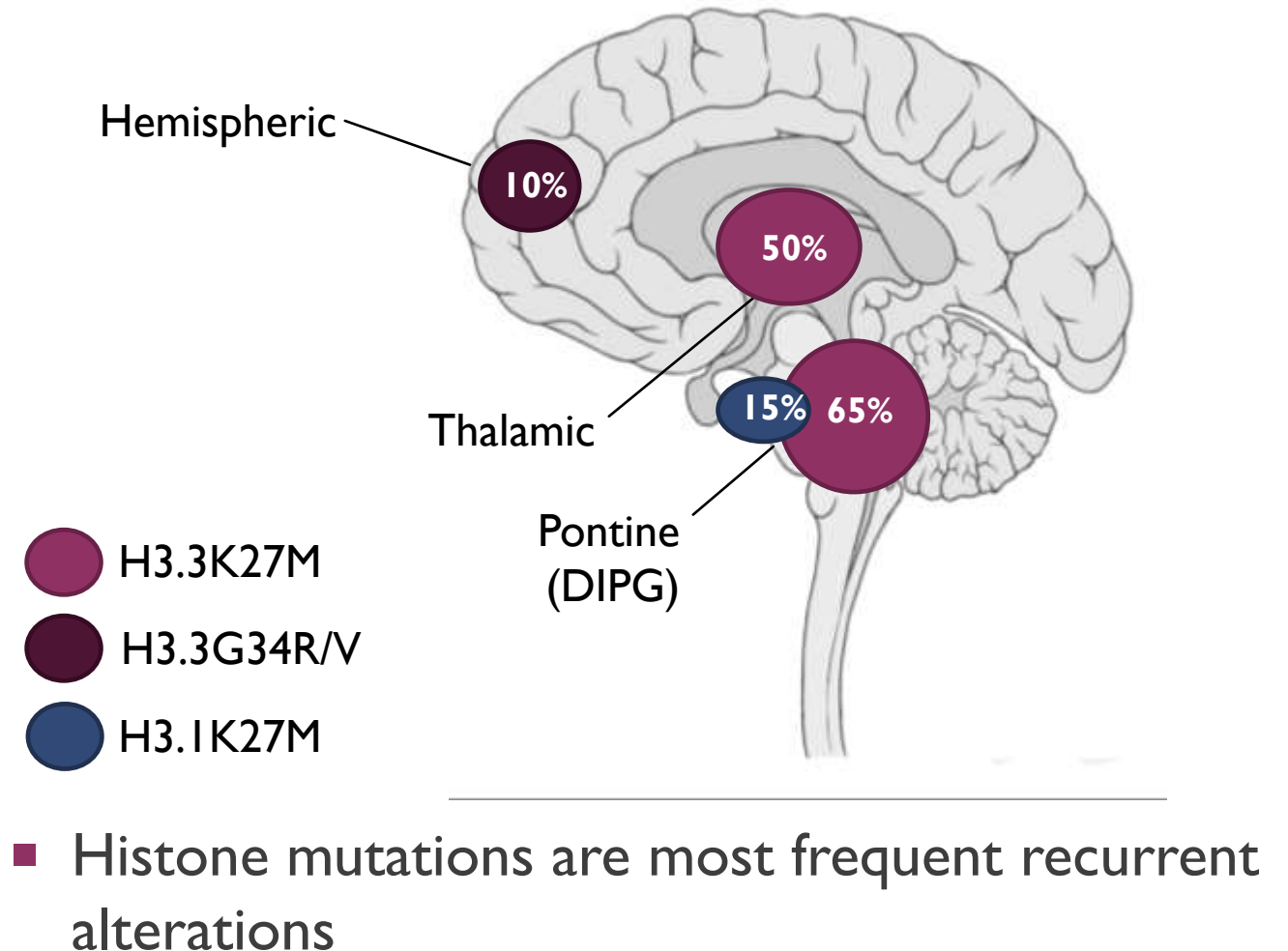
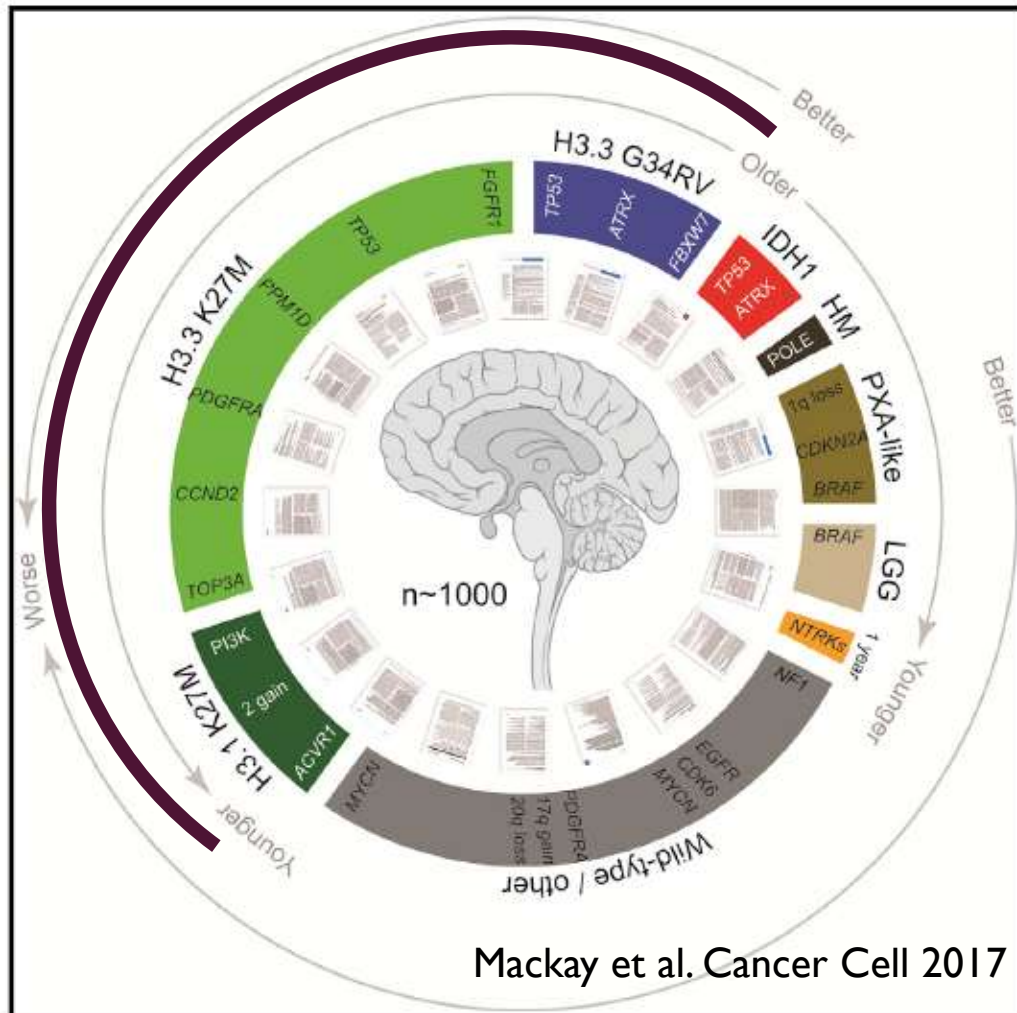
## PEDIATRIC-TYPE DIFFUSE HIGH-GRADE GLIOMAS

- Less common than low-grade glioma
- Usually are not the result of progression from low-grade counterpart (except BRAFV600E)
- Molecularly distinct from adult-type, by definition IDH WT
- Types defined based on characteristic age, location and molecular alterations

# DIFFUSE HIGH-GRADE GLIOMAS: TUMOR TYPES



# MOLECULAR SPECTRUM OF DIFFUSE HIGH-GRADE PEDIATRIC-TYPE GLIOMAS



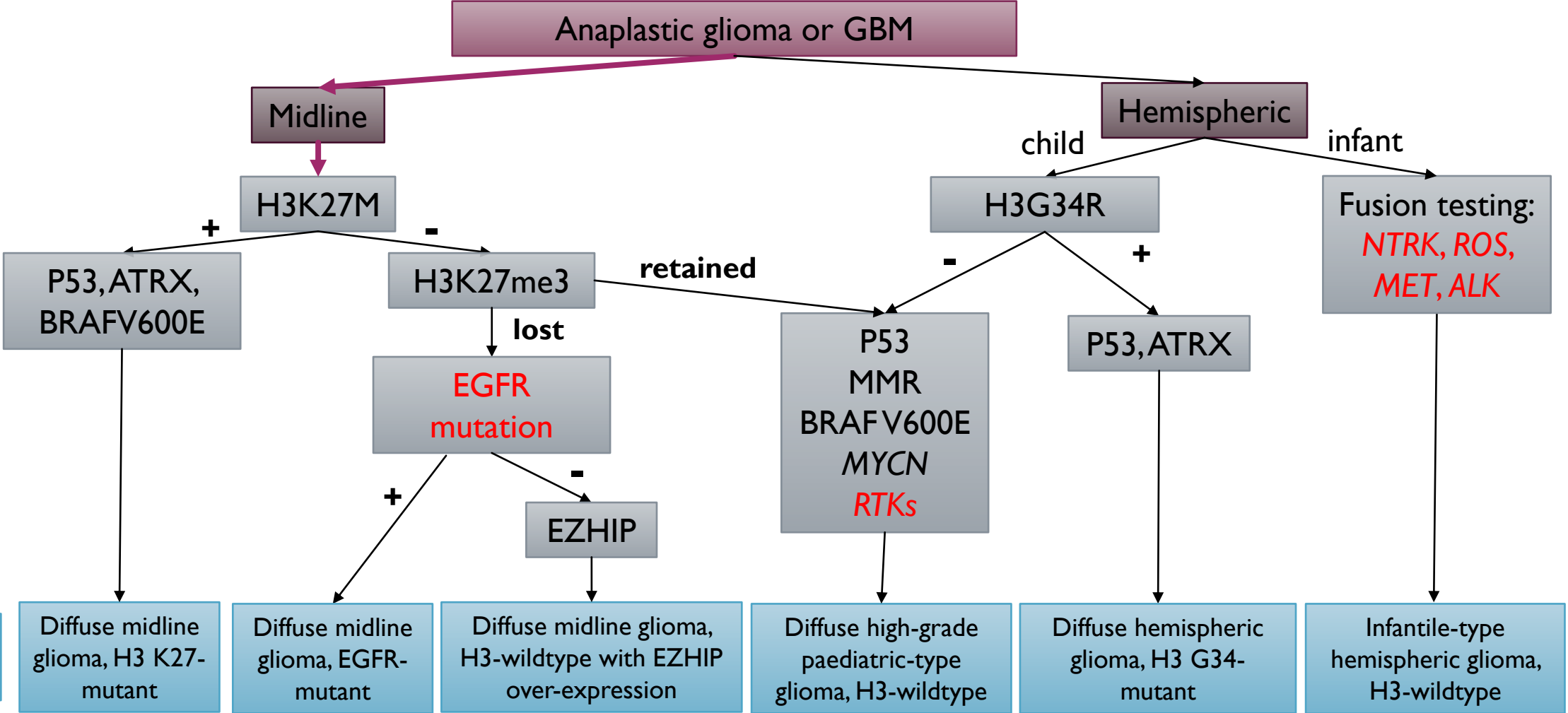
# PEDIATRIC-TYPE DIFFUSE HIGH-GRADE GLIOMAS : DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH

HISTOLOGY

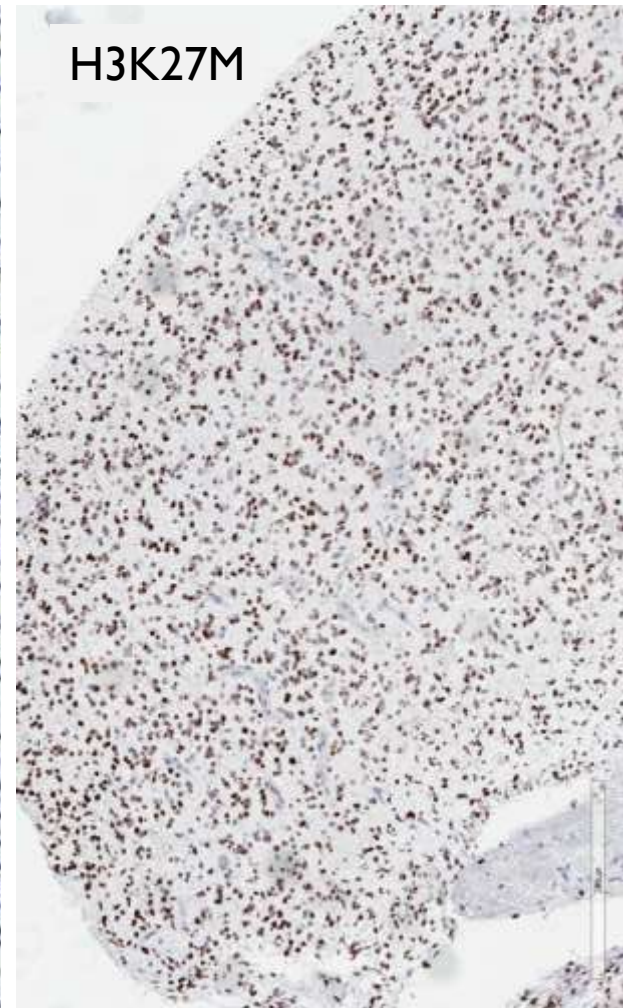
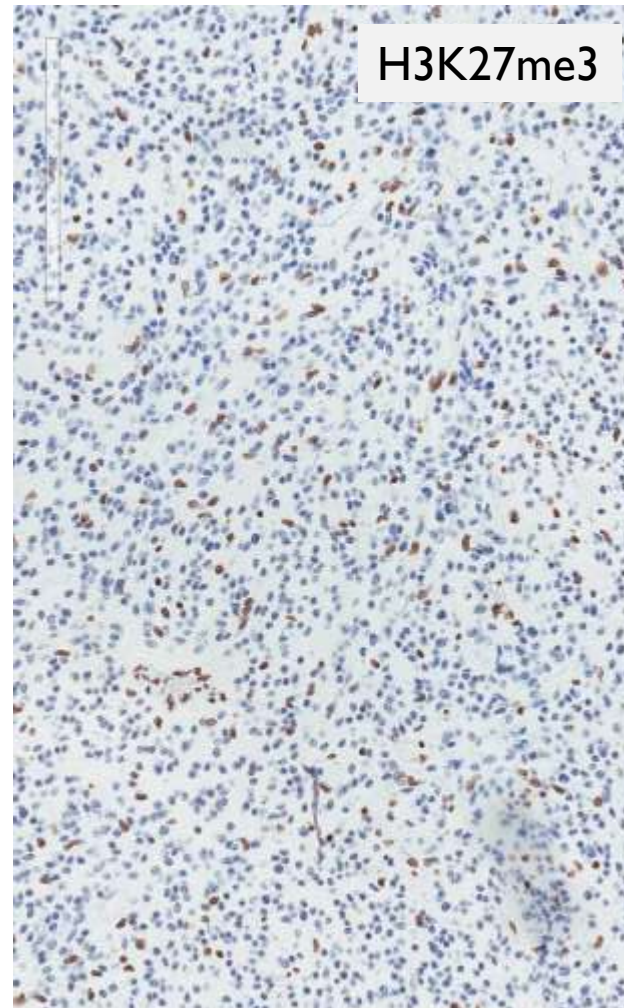
LOCATION

TESTING

INTEGRATED DIAGNOSIS

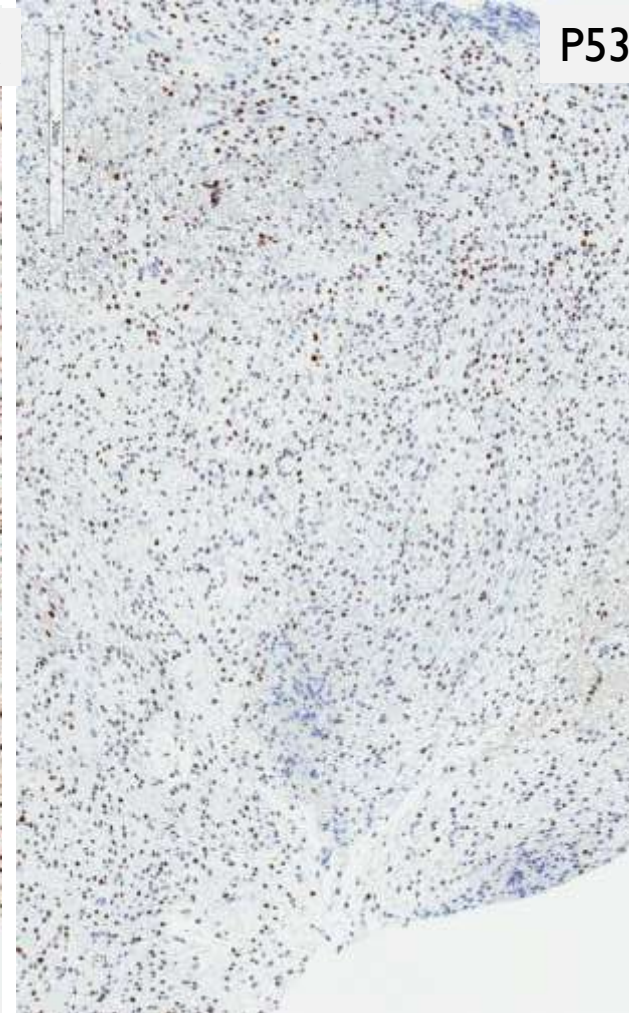


## CASE 2- IHC





## CASE 2- IHC



# INTEGRATED DIAGNOSIS

- Biopsy, Thalamic mass:
  - Diffuse midline glioma, H3 K27-altered
    - WHO grade 4
    - H3.3 p.K27M (IHC)



**H3-3A** NM\_002107 hg19 Pediatric COSMIC ClinVar CIVIC Pediatric2 Pan-ALL In Out <2 <10 <50 Tracks More

Protein length 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130

**Pediatric**  
77 of 79 mutations  
9 cancer subtypes  
3 datasets

K28R  
58 K28M

**H3-3A**  
NM\_002107  
MARTKQTARKSTGGKAPRQLATKAARKSAFSTGGVKKPFRVSPSTVALREIRRYQKSTLLLRKLPFDLVRVREIAGQDFSTDLRFDQASALGALQKQASEAYLVGLPFDTHLCATRAKRVYIIPKDIQLARRIGERA

**COSMIC**  
518 mutations  
36 histology types

**TP53** NM\_000546 hg19 Pediatric COSMIC ClinVar CIVIC Pediatric2 Pan-ALL In Out <2 <10 <50 Tracks More

Protein length 50 100 150 200 250 300 350

**Custom mutation**  
1 mutation  
Close

H179del

**TP53**  
NM\_000546

**COSMIC**  
303 of 29153 mutations  
62 histology types

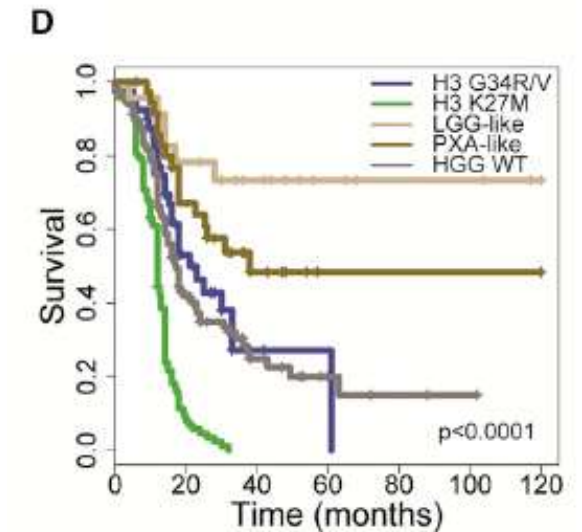
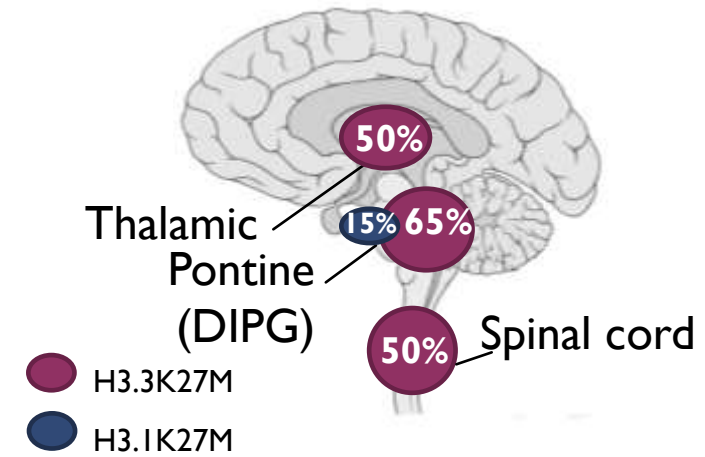
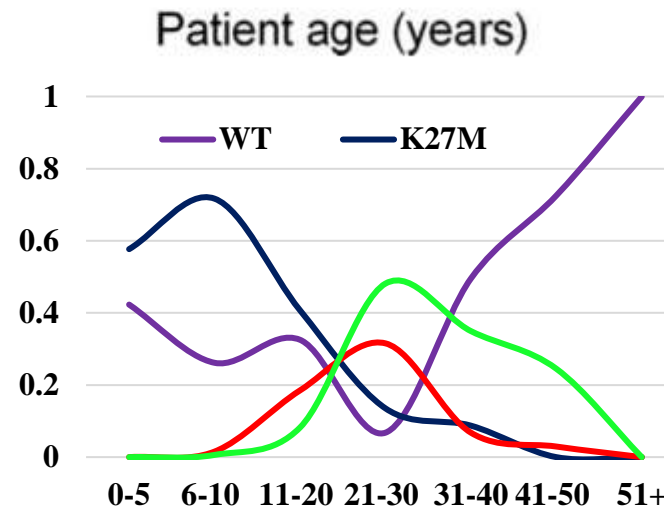
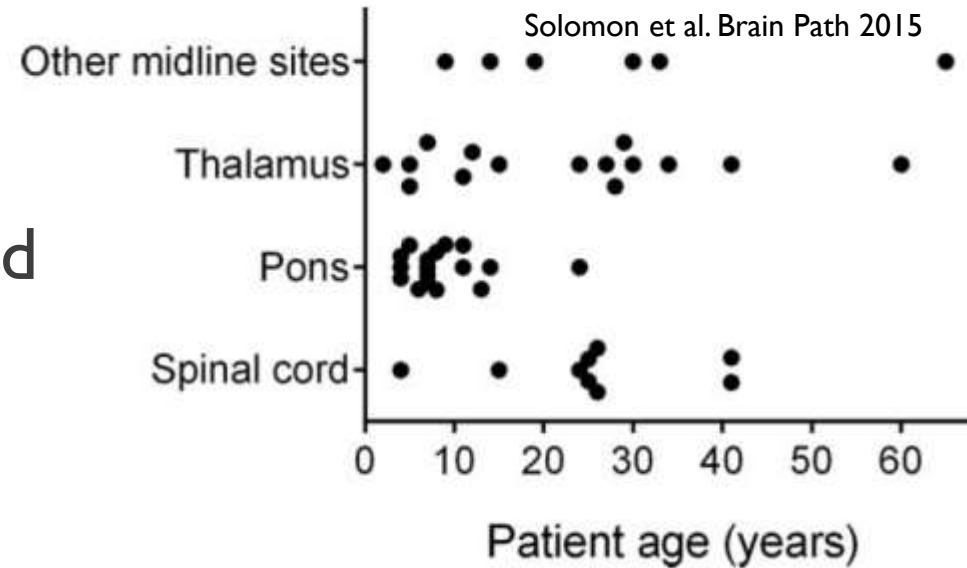
# MOLECULAR RESULTS

## ADDENDED INTEGRATED DIAGNOSIS

- Biopsy, Thalamic mass:
  - Diffuse midline glioma, H3 K27-altered
    - WHO grade 4
    - H3.3 p.K27M (IHC and NGS)
    - P53 p.H179del (NGS)

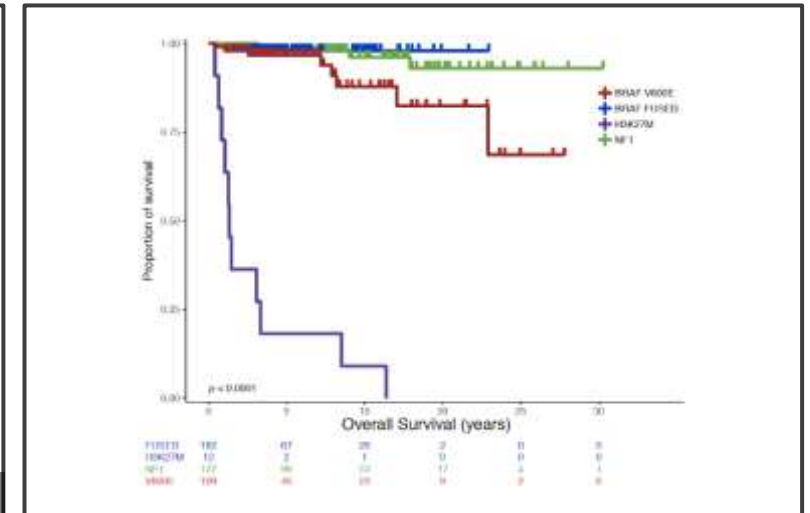
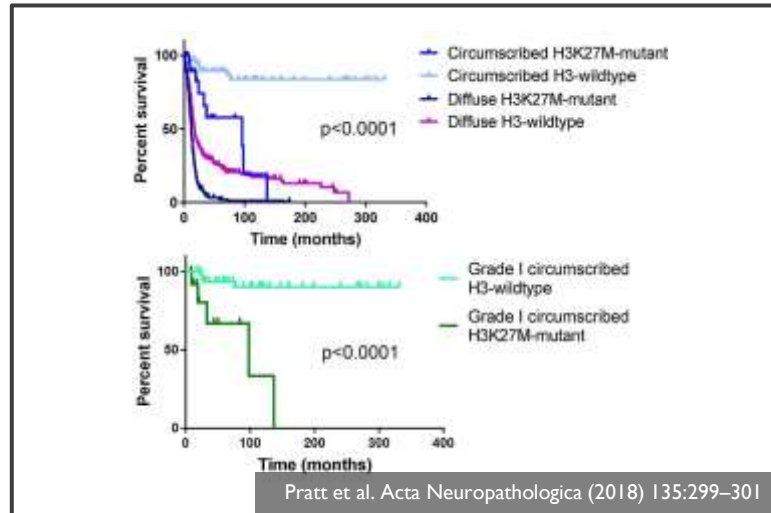
# DIFFUSE MIDLINE GLIOMA, H3 K27M-MUTANT

- Enriched in childhood but can occur at any age, particularly outside the pons
- H3.3 and H3.1
- Very poor outcome





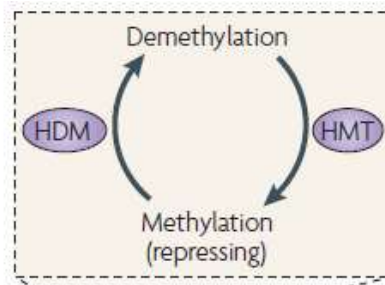
# DIFFUSE MIDLINE GLIOMA, H3 K27M-MUTANT



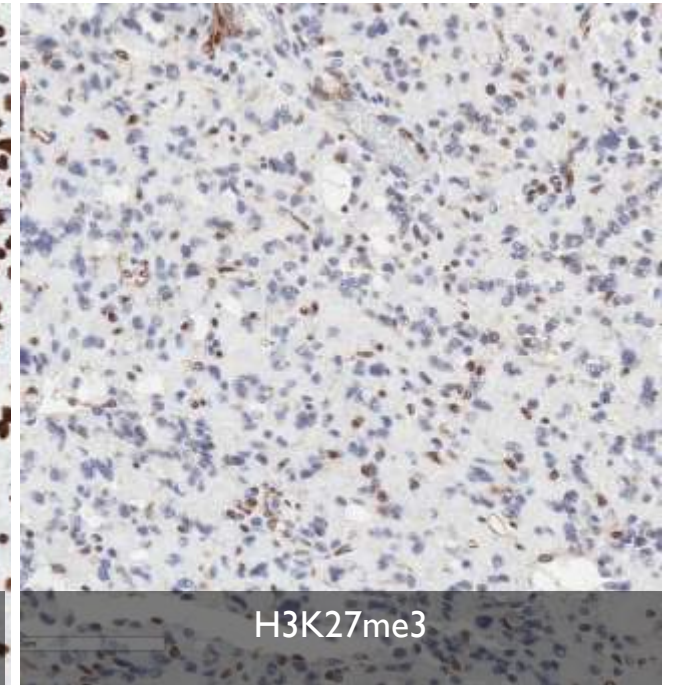
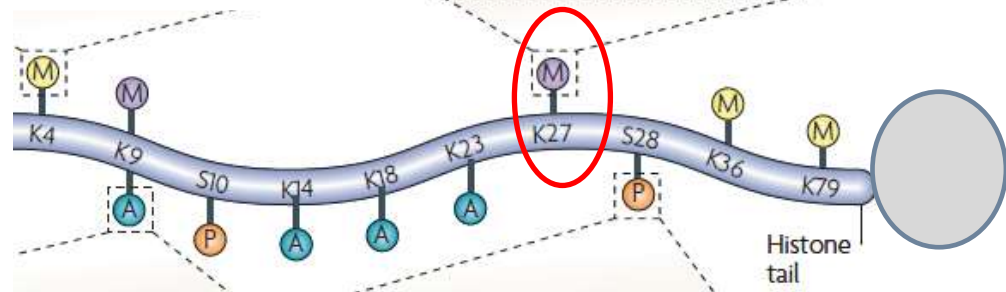
- cIMPACT/WHO recommendation is to limit this diagnosis to diffuse gliomas
- Even if DA or circumscribed/ grade I histology, these are not low-grade gliomas

# H3K27M INHIBITS PRC2 FUNCTION AND LEADS TO LOSS OF H3K27ME3

**UTX/JMJD3**  
demethylases

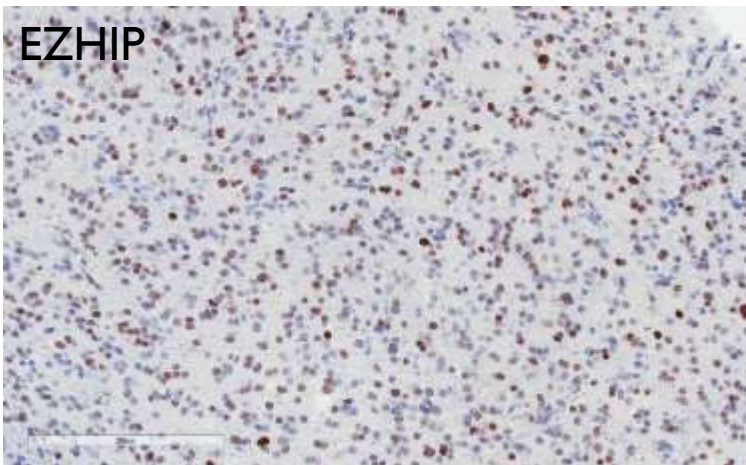


**PRC2 (Ezh2)**  
methyl-  
transferase



# H3 WILD-TYPE DMG: EZHIP OVER-EXPRESSION

- Some DMGs have loss of H3K27me3 but no H3K27M
- EZHIP inhibits PRC2 through an H3K27M-like mechanism



Molecular heterogeneity and *CXorf67* alterations in posterior fossa group A (PFA) ependymomas *Acta Neuropathol* 136(2):211-26, 2018

[Kristian W. Pajtl](#),<sup>1,2,3,20</sup> [Ji Wen](#),<sup>4,20</sup> [Martin Sill](#),<sup>1,2,20</sup> [Tong Lin](#),<sup>5,20</sup> [Wilda Orisme](#),<sup>4</sup> [Bo Tang](#),<sup>4</sup> [Jens-Martin Hübner](#),<sup>1,2</sup> [Vijay Ramaswamy](#),<sup>6,7</sup> [Sujuan Jia](#),<sup>4</sup> [James D. Dalton](#),<sup>4</sup> [Kelly Hauptfear](#),<sup>4</sup> [Hazel A. Rogers](#),<sup>8</sup> [Chandanamali PUNCHIHewa](#),<sup>4</sup> [Ryan Lee](#),<sup>4</sup> [John Easton](#),<sup>9</sup> [Gang Wu](#),<sup>9</sup> [Timothy A. Ritzmann](#),<sup>8</sup> [Rebecca Chapman](#),<sup>8</sup> [Lukas Chavez](#),<sup>1,2</sup> [Fredrick A. Boop](#),<sup>10</sup> [Paul Klimo, Jr.](#),<sup>10</sup> [Noah D. Sabin](#),<sup>11</sup> [Robert Ogg](#),<sup>11</sup> [Stephen C. Mack](#),<sup>7,12</sup> [Brian D. Freibaum](#),<sup>13</sup> [Hong Joo Kim](#),<sup>13</sup> [Hendrik Witt](#),<sup>1,2,3</sup> [David T.W. Jones](#),<sup>1,2</sup> [Baohan Vo](#),<sup>14</sup> [Amar Gajjar](#),<sup>15</sup> [Stan Pounds](#),<sup>5</sup> [Arzu Onar-Thomas](#),<sup>5</sup> [Martine F. Rousset](#),<sup>14</sup> [Jinghui Zhang](#),<sup>9</sup> [J. Paul Taylor](#),<sup>13,16</sup> [Thomas E. Merchant](#),<sup>17</sup> [Richard Grundy](#),<sup>8</sup> [Ruth G. Tatevossian](#),<sup>4</sup> [Michael D. Taylor](#),<sup>7</sup> [Stefan M. Pfister](#),<sup>1,2,3</sup> [Andrey Korshunov](#),<sup>18,19</sup> [Marcel Kool](#),<sup>1,2,21</sup> and [David W. Ellison](#),<sup>4,21,\*</sup>

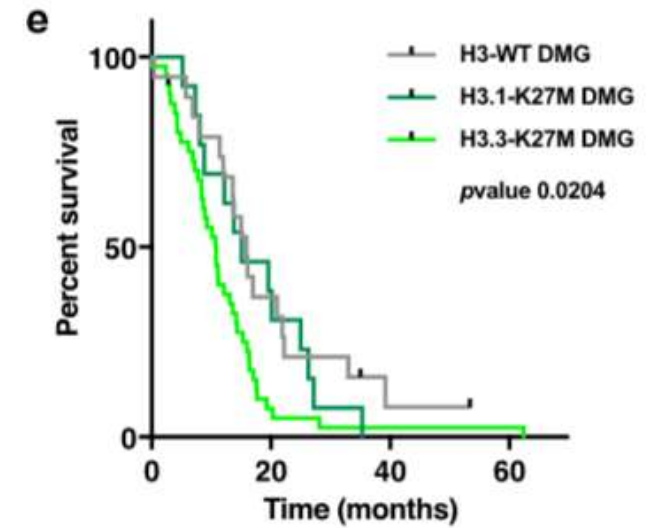
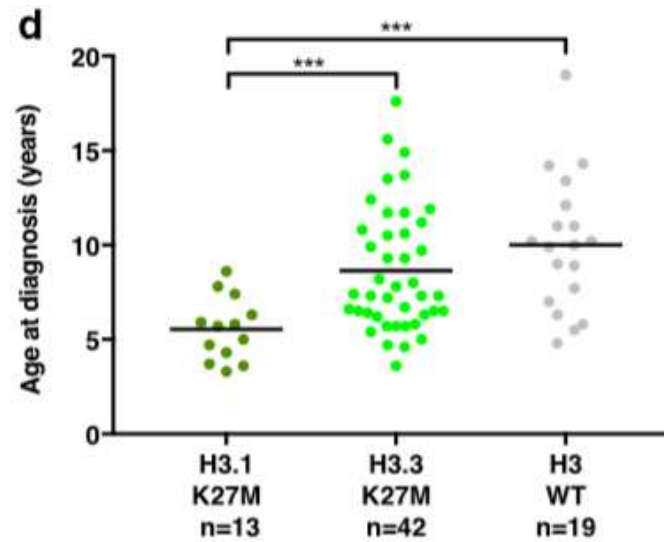
**Histone H3 wild-type DIPG/DMG overexpressing *EZH1P* extend the spectrum diffuse midline gliomas with PRC2 inhibition beyond H3-K27M mutation** *Acta Neuropathol* 139: 1109–1113, 2020

David Castel<sup>1,2</sup> · Thomas Kergrohen<sup>1,2</sup> · Arnault Tauziède-Espariat<sup>3,4</sup> · Alan Mackay<sup>5</sup> · Samia Ghermaoui<sup>1</sup> · Emmanuèle Lechapt<sup>3,4</sup> · Stefan M. Pfister<sup>6,7,8</sup> · Christof M. Kramm<sup>9</sup> · Nathalie Boddaert<sup>10</sup> · Thomas Blauwblomme<sup>11</sup> · Stéphanie Puget<sup>11</sup> · Kévin Beccaria<sup>1,11</sup> · Chris Jones<sup>5</sup> · David T. W. Jones<sup>6,12</sup> · Pascale Varlet<sup>3,4</sup> · Jacques Grill<sup>1,2</sup> · Marie-Anne Debily<sup>1,13</sup>

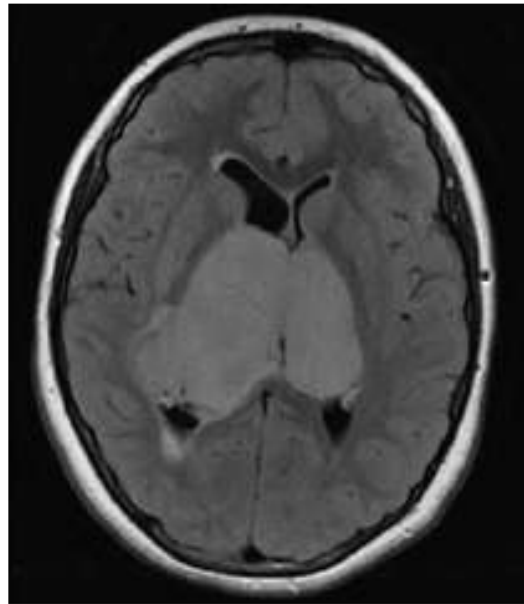


## H3 WILD-TYPE DMG WITH EZHIP OVER-EXPRESSION

- Outcome and age distribution similar to H3K27M
- These likely belong in DMG, H3 K27M mutant group



# DMG, EGFR-MUTANT



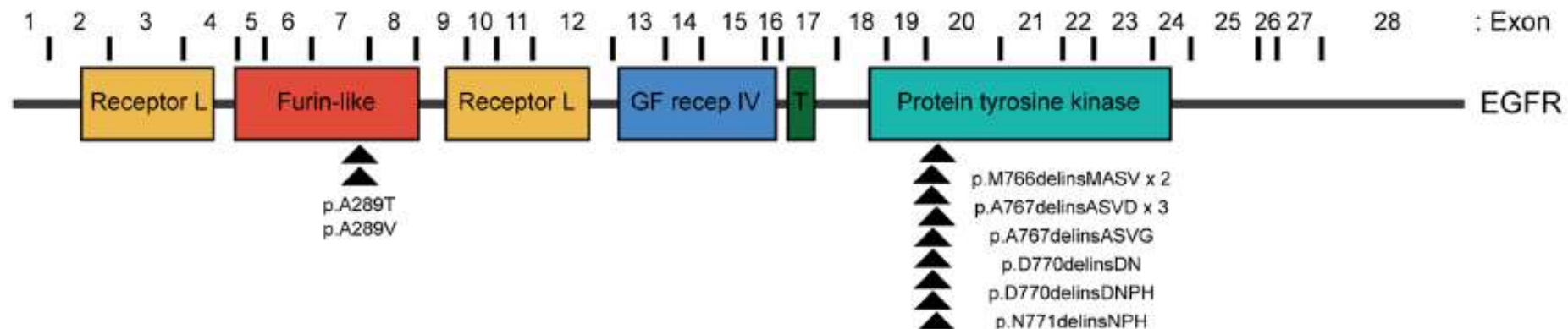
Acta Neuropathologica (2020) 139:1071–1088  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00401-020-02155-5>

ORIGINAL PAPER



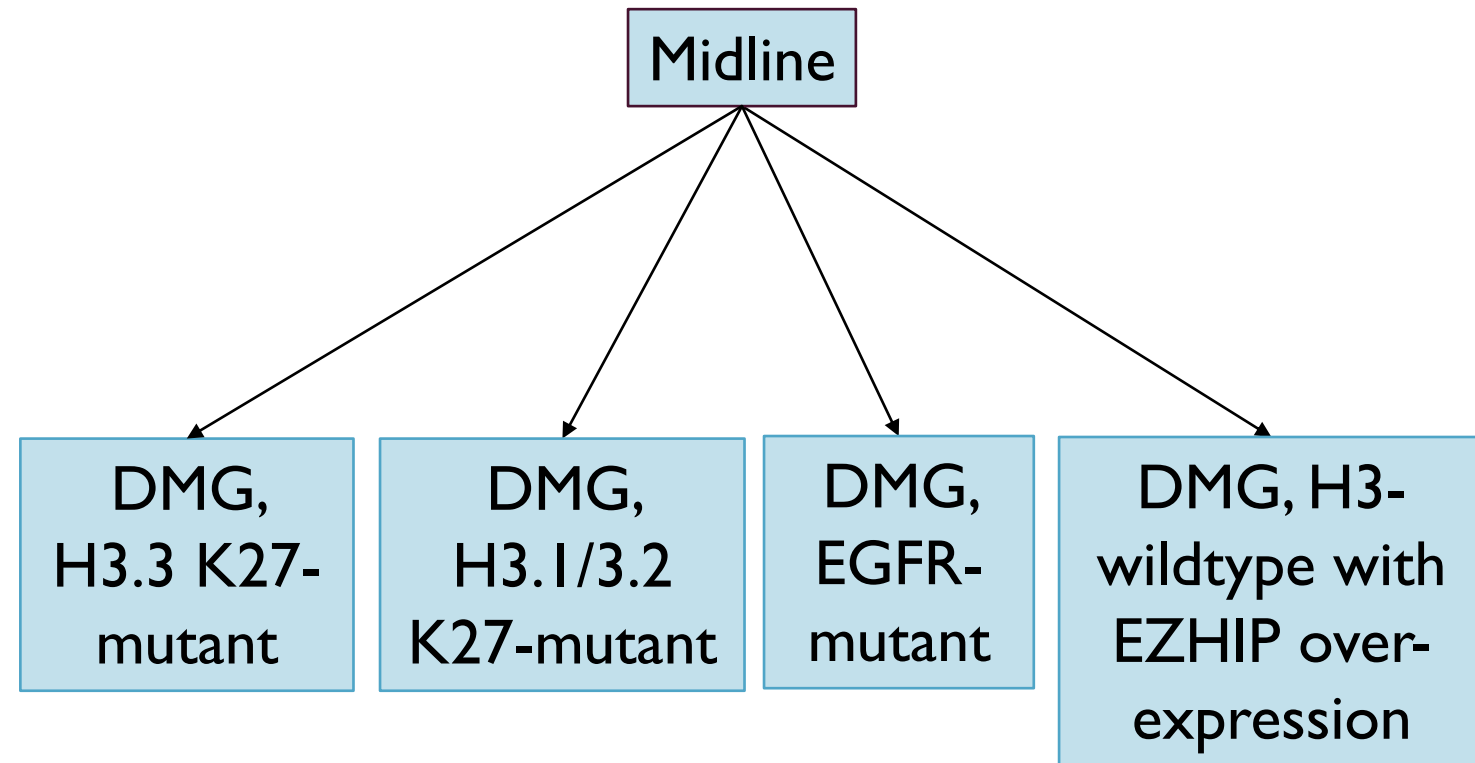
## Pediatric bithalamic gliomas have a distinct epigenetic signature and frequent *EGFR* exon 20 insertions resulting in potential sensitivity to targeted kinase inhibition

Gourish Mondal<sup>1</sup> · Julleann C. Lee<sup>1</sup> · Ajay Ravindranathan<sup>1</sup> · Javier E. Villanueva-Meyer<sup>2</sup> · Quynh T. Tran<sup>3</sup> · Sariah J. Allen<sup>3</sup> · Jalro Barreto<sup>1</sup> · Rohit Gupta<sup>1</sup> · Pamela Doo<sup>4</sup> · Jessica Van Ziffle<sup>1,5</sup> · Courtney Onodera<sup>1,5</sup> · Patrick Devine<sup>1,5</sup> · James P. Grenert<sup>1,5</sup> · David Samuel<sup>6</sup> · Rong Li<sup>7</sup> · Laura K. Metrock<sup>8</sup> · Lee-way JIn<sup>9</sup> · Reuben Antony<sup>10</sup> · Moulded Alashari<sup>11</sup> · Samuel Cheshier<sup>12</sup> · Nicholas S. Whipple<sup>13</sup> · Carol Bruggers<sup>13</sup> · Corey Raffel<sup>14</sup> · Nalin Gupta<sup>14</sup> · Cassie N. Kline<sup>15,16</sup> · Alyssa Reddy<sup>16</sup> · Anu Banerjee<sup>15</sup> · Matthew D. Hall<sup>17</sup> · Minesh P. Mehta<sup>17</sup> · Ziad Khatib<sup>18</sup> · Ossama M. Maher<sup>18</sup> · Carole Brathwaite<sup>19</sup> · Melike Pekmezci<sup>1</sup> · Joanna J. Phillips<sup>1,14</sup> · Andrew W. Bollen<sup>1</sup> · Tarik Tihan<sup>1</sup> · John T. Lucas Jr<sup>20</sup> · Alberto Broniscer<sup>21</sup> · Mitchel S. Berger<sup>14</sup> · Arie Perry<sup>1,14</sup> · Brent A. Orr<sup>3</sup> · David A. Solomon<sup>1,5</sup>



# DIFFUSE MIDLINE GLIOMA, H3 K27-ALTERED

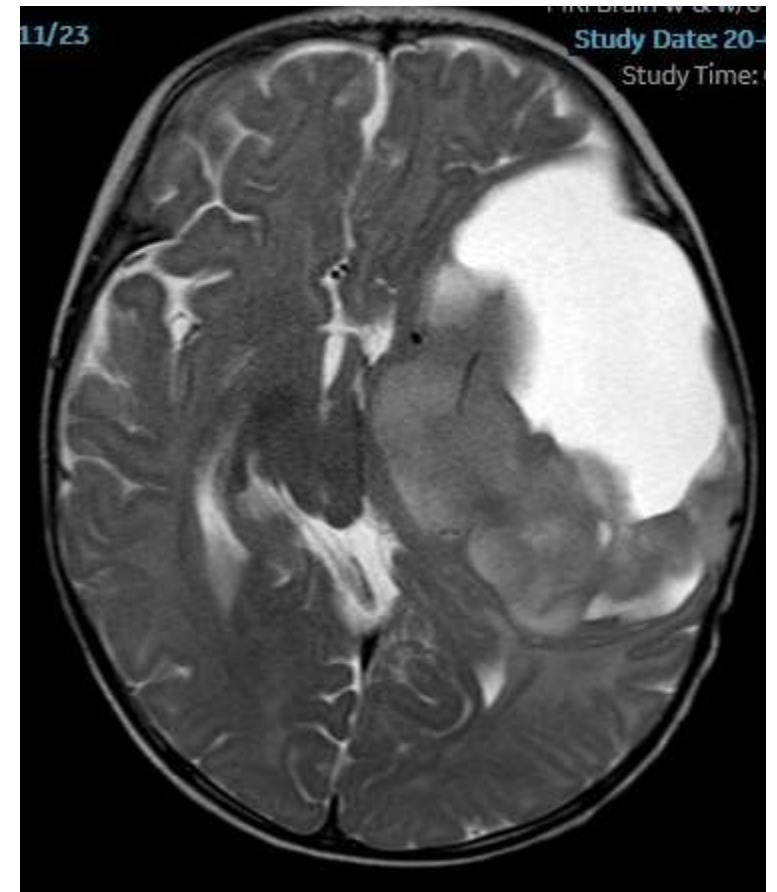
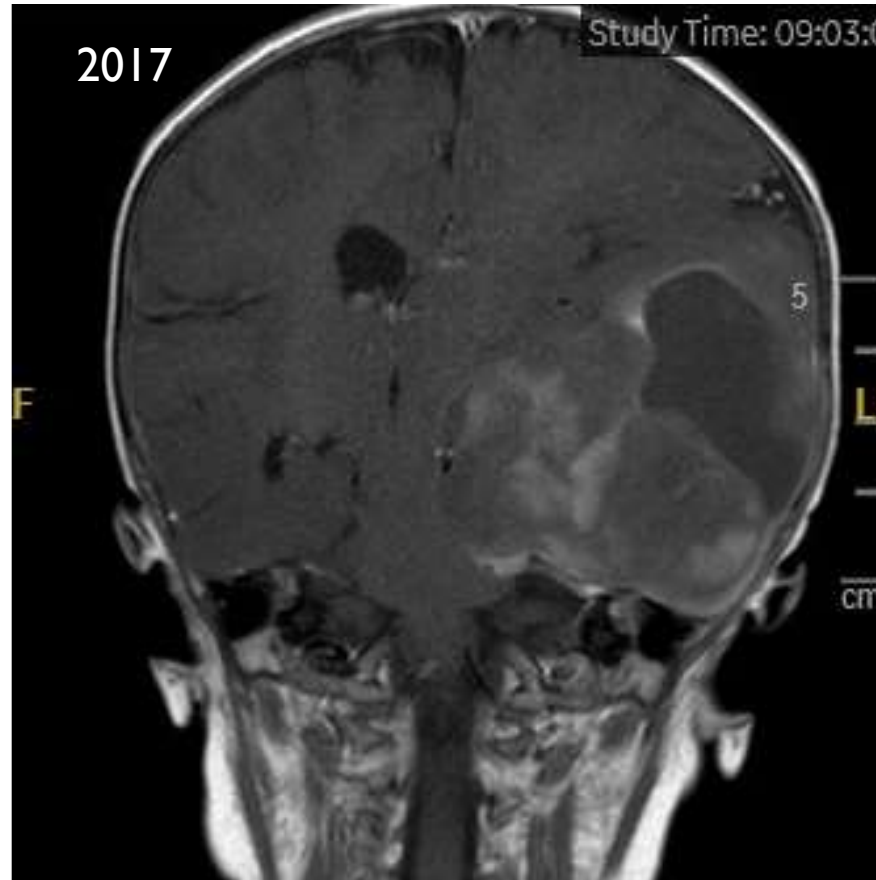
- Category expanded to recognise all diffuse gliomas with H3K27me3 loss





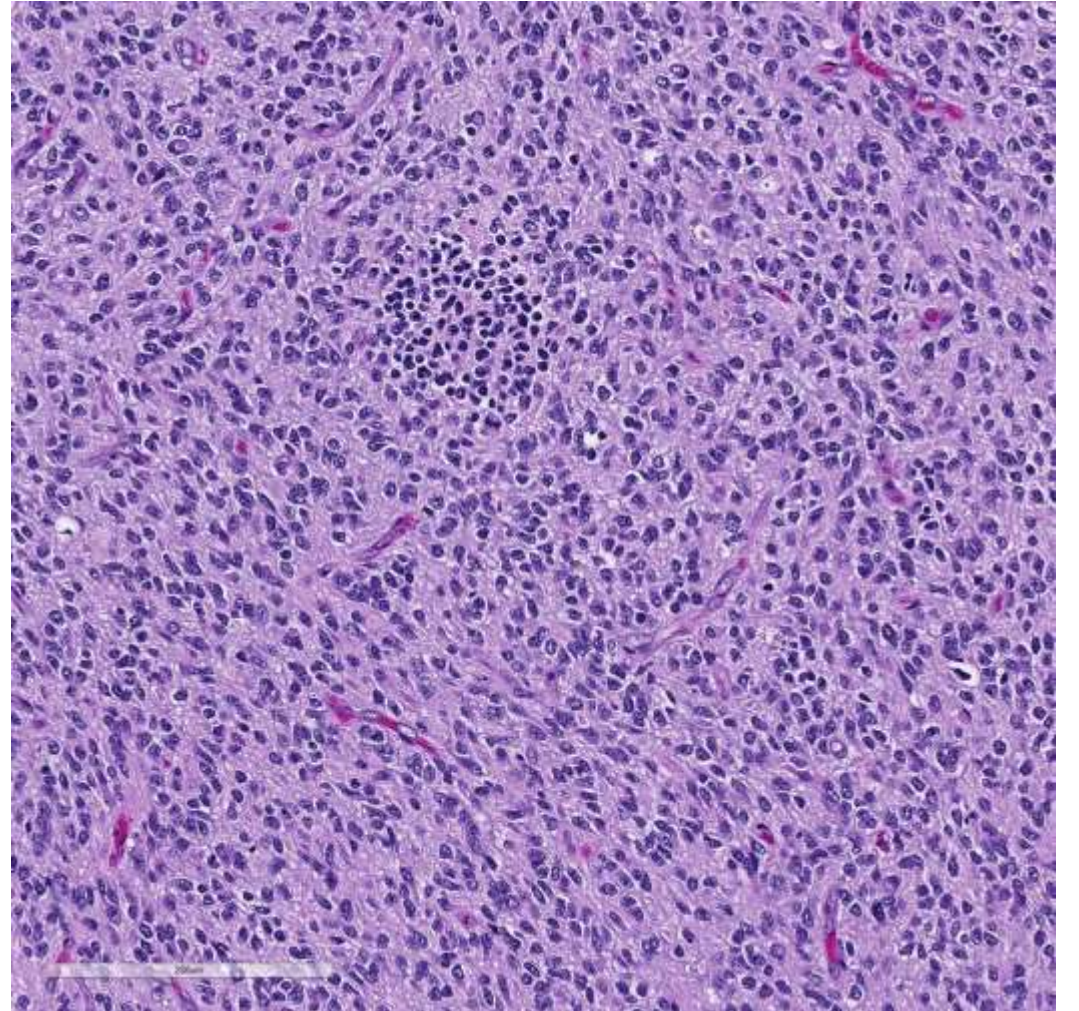
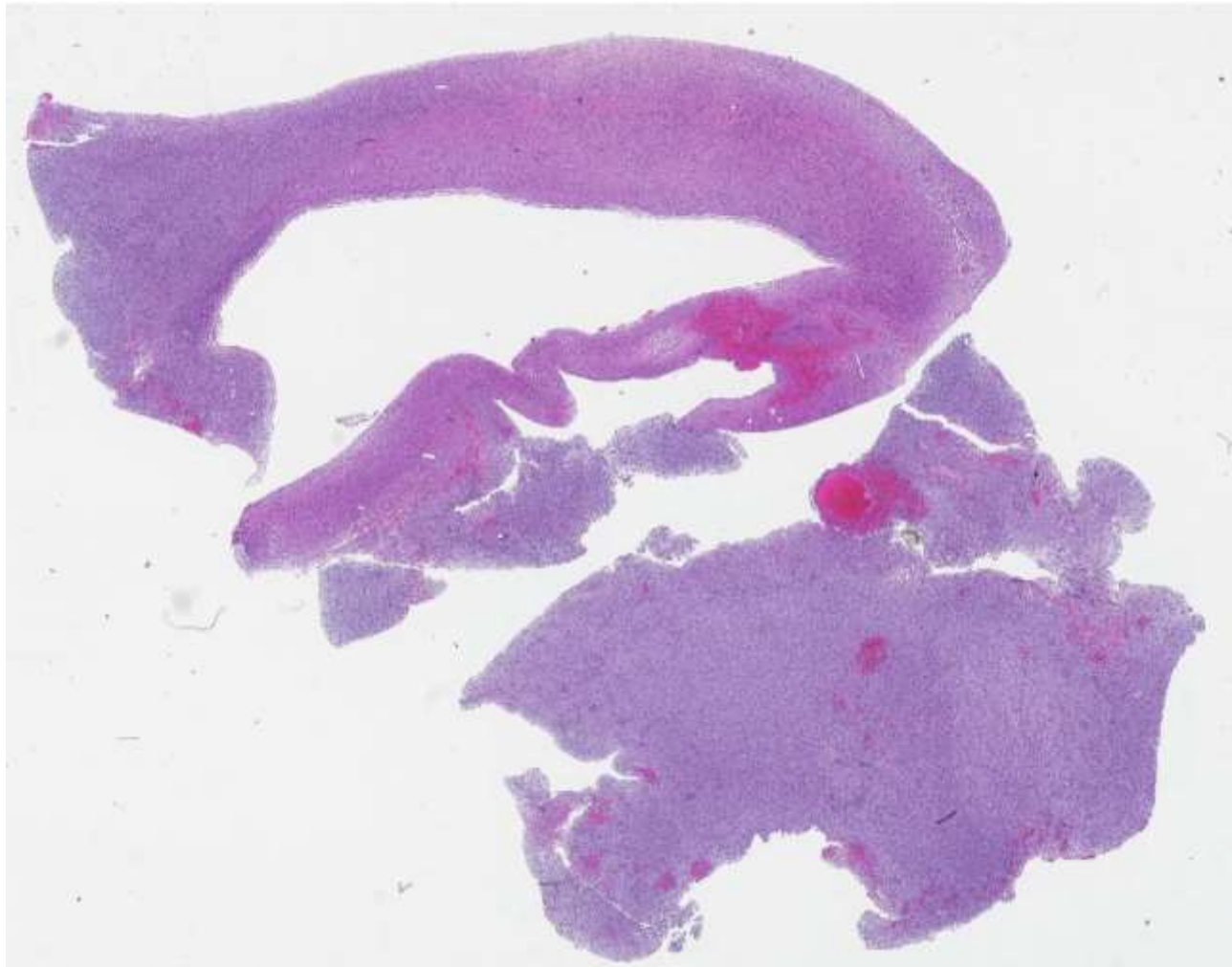
## CASE 3

- 7 month-old boy presented with poor feeding and increased head circumference
- Partial resection



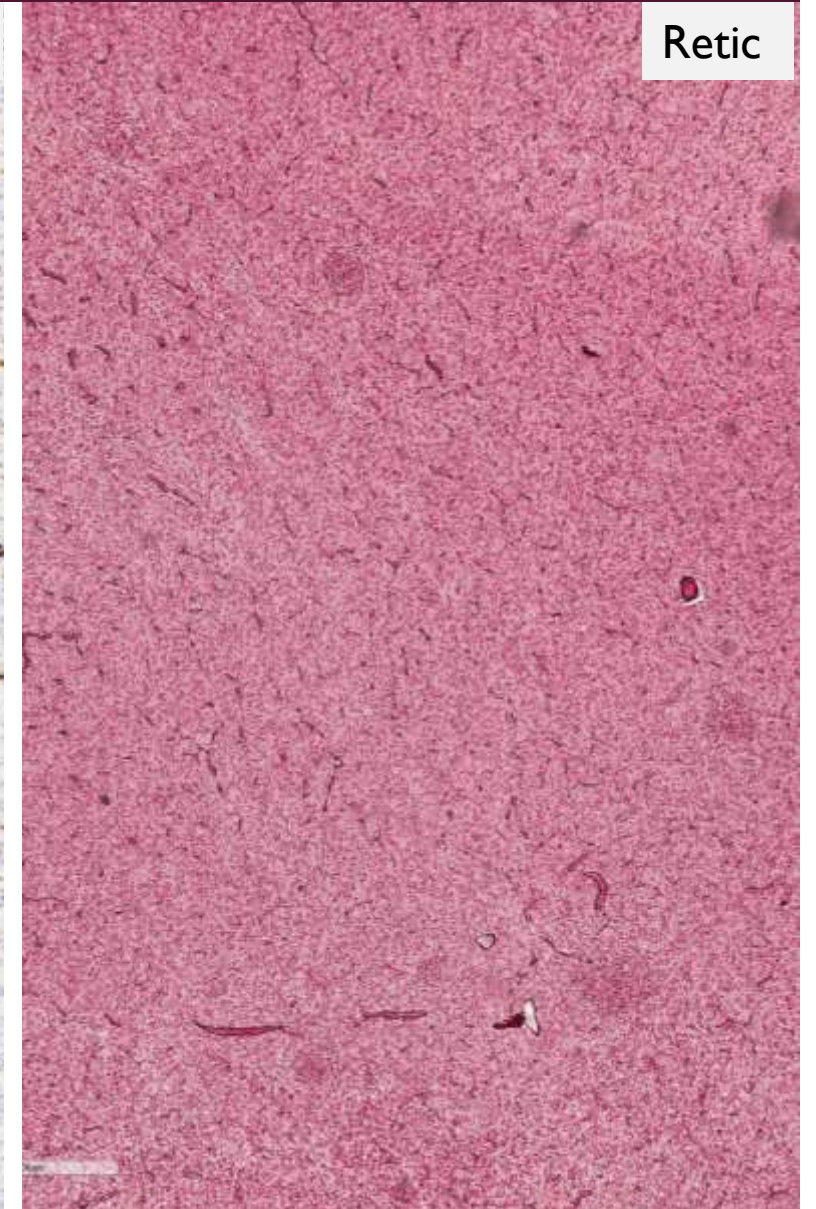
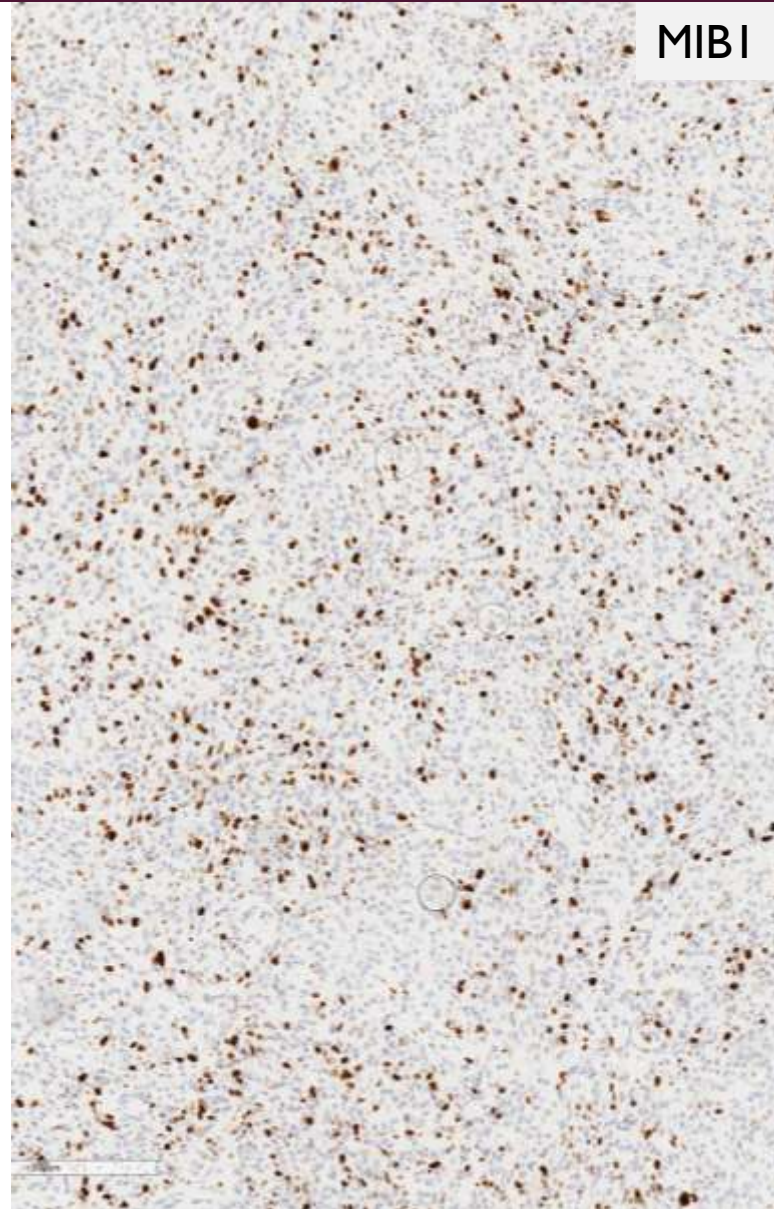
DIGITAL SLIDE

## CASE 3 H&E

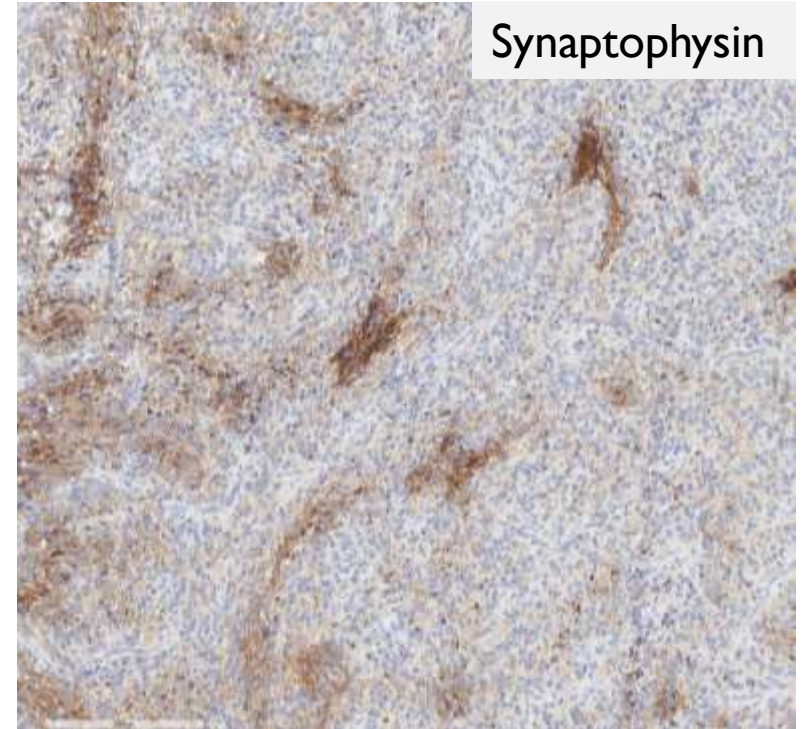
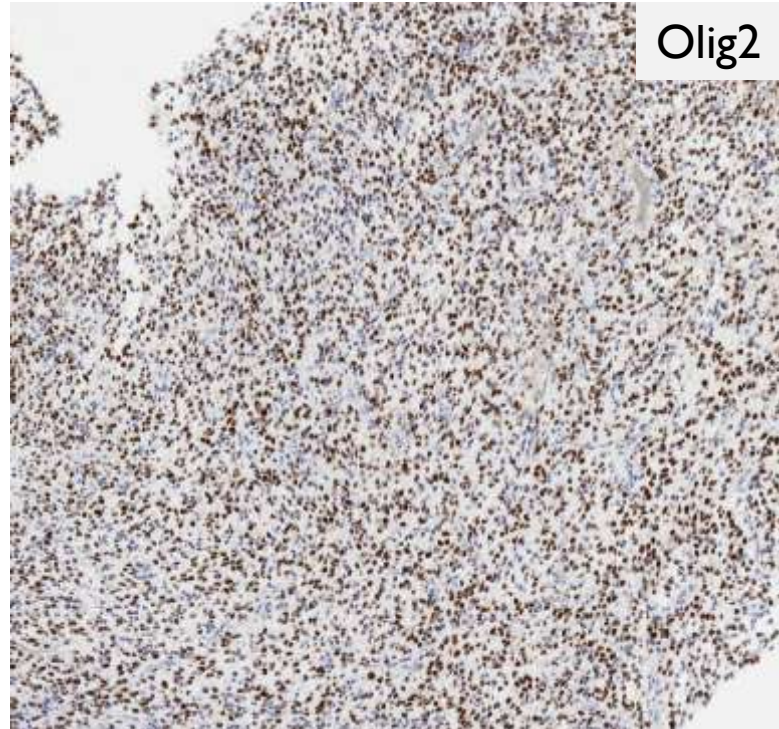
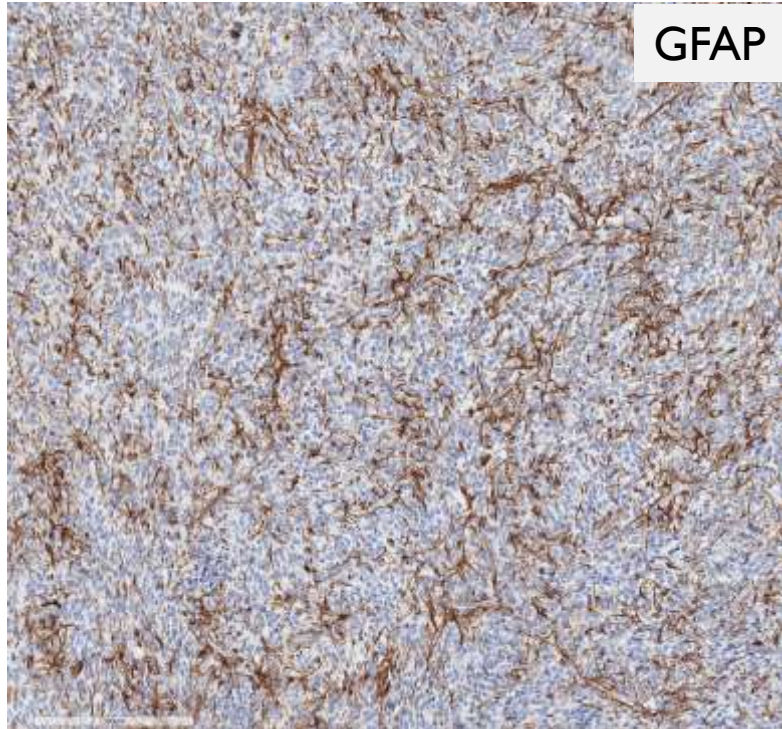




# CASE 3

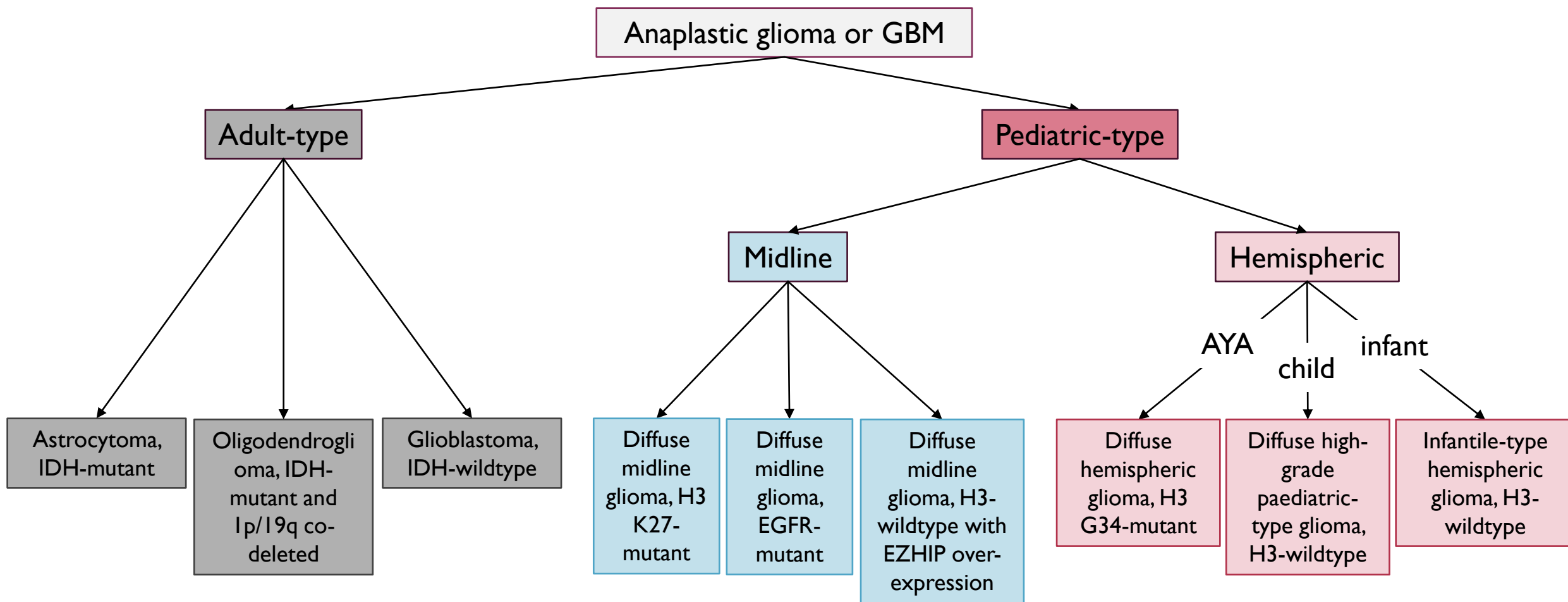




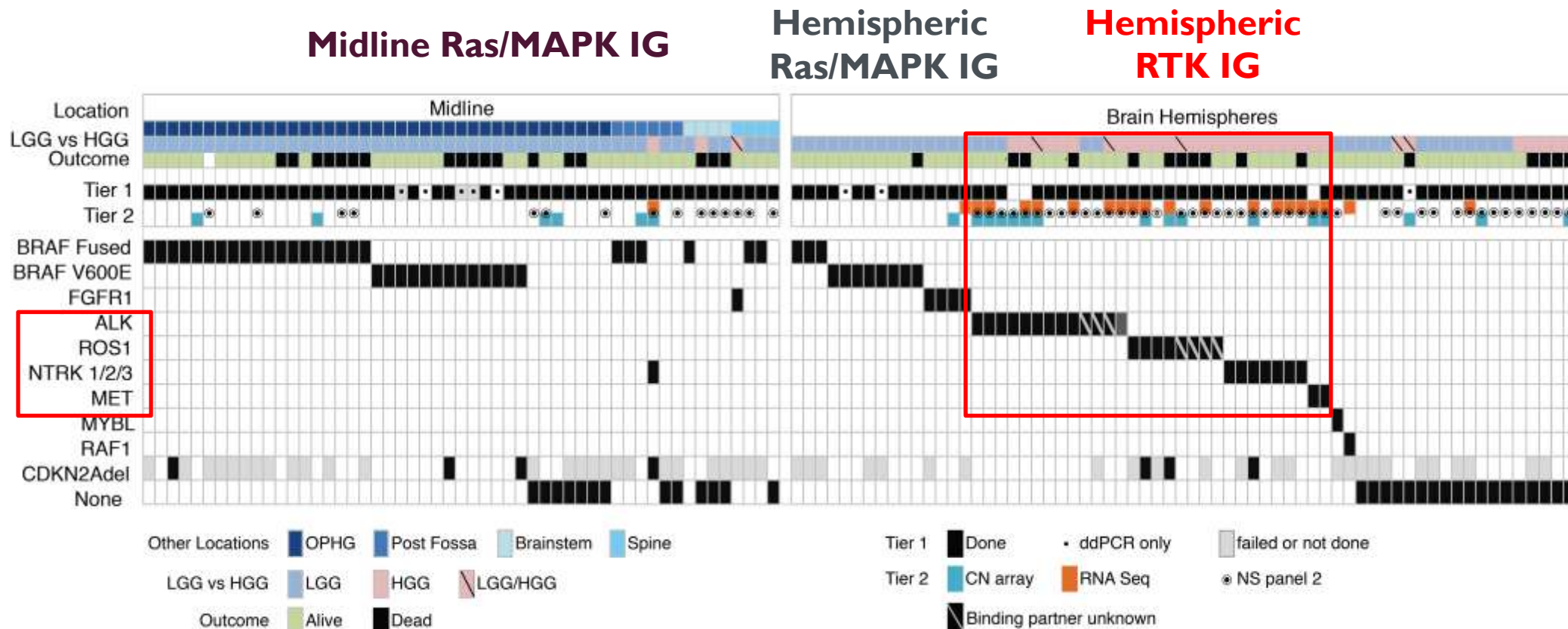


# CASE 3 IHC

# DIFFUSE HIGH-GRADE GLIOMAS: TUMOR TYPES



# 3 MAIN SUBGROUPS OF INFANT GLIOMAS





## INFANT-TYPE HEMISPHERIC GLIOMA

- Hemispheric, high-grade gliomas arising in early childhood, mostly < 1 year
- Typically harbor receptor tyrosine kinase fusions: *NTRK*, *ALK*, *ROS1*, *MET*
- Better outcome than high grade gliomas in older children
- RTK fusions may be therapeutically targeted



## CASE 3 MOLECULAR RESULTS

- RNA sequencing revealed *CLIP2-MET* fusion

## FINAL INTEGRATED DIAGNOSIS

- Resection, Left hemispheric mass:
  - Infantile hemispheric glioma
    - *CLIP2-MET* fusion positive (RNAseq)

## CASE 3

- Treated with chemotherapy (carbo/ vincristine)
- Currently off-treatment, doing well



## OBJECTIVES - AT THE END OF THIS TALK YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1

Approach the workup of a pediatric glioma

2

Apply the changes in the new WHO classification of CNS tumors as it applies to gliomas

3

Integrate molecular and morphologic data to generate a layered neuropathologic diagnosis



QUESTIONS?

# References

1. Ellison et al., Acta Neuropathologica 137:683-687, 2019
2. Ryall et al. Cancer Cell 37:569-83, 2020
3. Ryall et al. Acta Neuropathologica Communications 8(1):30, 2020
4. Louis et al. Neuro Oncol 23(8):1231-51, 2021
5. Louis et al. Brain Pathology 29(4):469-72, 2019
6. Louis et al. Brain Pathology 30: 844-856, 2020
7. Guerreiro-Stucklin et al. Nature Communications. 10(4343), 2019

