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Preface

Intracranial tumors of infants and children are remarkably different from those of adults. Such tumors in early life are anaplastic and/or undifferentiated and these characteristics affect their prognosis. Hamartomas and teratomas, germinal tumors, craniopharyngiomas and gangliogliomas are intracranial tumors typically seen in early life and they produce clinical syndromes of endocrine as well as neurological nature.

Because of the widely diverse character of these tumors their treatments are controversial, and there is much need for basic oncologic studies, sophisticated imaging and prolonged follow-up of large clinical series. The First International Symposium on Pediatric Neurooncology was held November 6-8, 1985, in Toba, Japan. The participating experts from throughout the world included neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, neurooncologist, neuroophthalmologists, neuroendocrinologists and neuropathologists who presented and discussed papers on basic research, pathology and state of the art diagnostic methodology. Among the studies presented were some of the largest and most extended clinical investigations ever undertaken on pediatric intracranial neoplasms. This volume includes the most significant of these contributions and represents the latest knowledge in pediatric neurooncology. It is hoped that it will remain for years to come a guide for researchers in this field and that it will contribute to the advancement of pediatric neurooncology.

Space limitations prevented the inclusion of the discussions in this volume. These have been published separately in the Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Pediatric Neurooncology by Nagoya University Press.