

COMMENT. Other brain tumors associated with West syndrome have included choroid plexus papilloma, ganglioglioma, and optic nerve glioma. Infantile spasms and choroid plexus papilloma have also been described in Aicardi syndrome (see Ped Neurol Briefs October 1989; 3:74).

#### OPTIC NERVE GLIOMA

The clinical presentation, diagnosis, response to therapy, and visual outcome of 18 children with optic nerve glioma are reported from the Division of Neurology, Department of Pediatrics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Failing vision was the presenting symptom in 13 patients and 15 had an incorrect initial diagnosis which resulted in many years of treatment delay with consequent further visual impairment and reduced efficacy of treatment. In patients presenting with visual impairment, the time from presentation to diagnosis was 28 months whereas in five with increased intracranial pressure, the diagnosis was made within three months. Incorrect initial diagnoses included idiopathic nystagmus (3), congenital optic nerve atrophy (3), squint, diencephalic tumor, multiple sclerosis, and hysteria. Following radiotherapy, an improvement in vision was observed only in those children who presented with increased intracranial pressure and who were diagnosed early. Multiple cafe-au-lait spots were observed in five children. (Appleton RE, Jan JE. Delayed diagnosis of optic nerve glioma: A preventable cause of visual loss. Pediatr Neurol July/Aug 1989, 5: 226-8).

COMMENT. In young children presenting with nystagmus, squint, optic atrophy, or visual impairment, the possibility of optic nerve glioma should be considered. The diagnosis is especially likely if signs of neurofibromatosis are associated. Early diagnosis may prevent visual loss and may influence the efficacy of radiotherapy.

### LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR DISORDERS

#### MUSIC AND ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOR

The role of music in the lives of adolescents and the use of music preferences as clues to the emotional and mental health of adolescents is reviewed from the Group on Science and Technology, American Medical Association, Chicago, IL. Between the 7th and 12th grades the average teenager listens to 10,500 hours of rock music. Unlike television viewing which is often subject to family discussion and parental control, music is largely uncensored. Music plays a large role in adolescent socialization, as an information source about sexuality and alternative lifestyles, and as an introduction to political topics via various concerts organized for political causes. It is an important symbol in the search for independence and autonomy. It may provide an outlet for personal troubles or conflicts with parents. Musical preferences may reflect different types of struggles that adolescents face as they make the transition to adulthood. Rock music has spawned many cultural