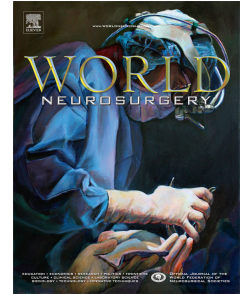


Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1878-8750(16)31407-3

DOI: [10.1016/j.wneu.2016.12.092](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wneu.2016.12.092)

Reference: WNEU 5053

To appear in: *World Neurosurgery*

Received Date: 18 December 2016

Accepted Date: 20 December 2016

Please cite this article as: Quintana LM, Primary vertebral tumors – And Enneking was right, *World Neurosurgery* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2016.12.092.

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Primary vertebral tumors – And Enneking was right

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The primary vertebral tumors, although less common than metastases to the spine, make up an heterogeneous group of neoplasms that can pose diagnostic and treatment challenges. They affect both the adult and the pediatric population and may be benign, locally aggressive, or malignant. An understanding of typical imaging findings will define an accurate diagnosis and help neurosurgeons appreciate some anatomic landmarks that may increase their effective surgical treatment. An understanding of the histological similarities and differences between these tumors is imperative for the clinical team caring for these patients. In a comprehensive analysis we have two large groups of tumors, those with benign and malignant behavior. The most common benign primary vertebral tumors are the aneurysmal bone cyst, chondroma and enchondroma, hemangioma, osteoid osteoma, and osteoblastoma, and lesions related to eosinophilic granuloma and fibrous dysplasia. In the group of malignant behavior we have the most common locally aggressive primary vertebral tumors as the chordoma and giant-cell tumor, and the group histologically malignant as the chondrosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, multiple myeloma or plasmacytoma, and osteosarcoma.^{7,8}

Oncologic management of primary tumors of spine has usually been controversial, and open to individual interpretation. This is due in part to the low incidence of

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