Letter to the editor

Dowd CF, Halbach VV, Higashida RT: Meningiomas: the role of preoperative angiography and embolization. **Neurosurg Focus** 15 (1):Article 10, 2003

TO THE EDITOR:

Dr. Dowd and colleagues present a detailed discussion of embolization of meningiomas. We would like to point out that we have studied more than 165 patients in whom cranial base meningiomas were embolized prior to surgical management.¹ We found that significant complications can occur even in the hands of an accomplished and experienced interventional neuroradiologist. Nine percent of our patients sustained a permanent neurological deficit or major morbidity. These complications were not associated with embolization through any particular vessel.

Preoperative embolization of tumors remains a useful component in the surgical arsenal to obliterate meningiomas. Recognition of the serious risks, however, must be appreciated. Enthusiasm for universal embolization of meningiomas may not be warranted.

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Reference

1. Rosen CL, Ammerman JM, Sekhar LN, et al: Outcome analysis of preoperative embolization in cranial base surgery. **Acta Neurochir** 144:1157–1164, 2002