Neurosurgical Techniques

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The Right Occipital Approach to a Pinealoma

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Although tumors of the posterior third ventricle presumed to be pinealomas have generally been treated by subtemporal decompression, ventriculocisternal shunt (Torkildsen’s procedure) or ventriculoatrial shunt, it is often possible to take a biopsy for histologic verification as an aid to subsequent treatment, or to remove certain tumors completely. The following is a graphic description of the surgical approach to this region (Fig. 1) which we have used successfully in a number of patients.

Fig. 1. Anatomy of the pineal region. Relationship of the pineal body to the tentorium, the splenium of the corpus callosum, the superior portion of the cerebellum, and the aqueduct of Sylvius.