

Treatment

- Despite 3 decades of effort
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 - Need to treat entire neuraxis
 - 2. Close proximity of tumor to neural structures
 - 3. Limit RT and CT because of neurotoxicity
 - 4. Blood-CSF Barrier
 - 5. Intrinsic resistance of solid tumors
 - Routine presence of other sites of metastatic disease
- 1/3 opt out; 1/3 too sick; 1/3 treated

Treatment Overview

- Surgery
 - Occasional meningeal Bx for Dx
 - Placement of intraventricular (Ommaya) reservoir for CSF access
 - CSF diversionary procedures (V-P shunt)
- Radiation
 - Focused
 - Whole brain
 - Spinal
- Chemotherapy
 - Intrathecal
 - Systemic

Treatment Complications

- Ommaya reservoir
 - 1% hemorrhage; 5% infection
- Impaired CSF flow due to obstruction
 - Chemo may cause seizures, arachnoiditis (N/V and MS changes)
- Aseptic meningitis
- Necrotizing leukoencephalopathy
 - Most common with IT Mtx following RT
 - Progressive dementia, debility and death
- Transverse myelitis
 - IT Chemo + RT cord

Table 56F-6 -- Treatment of Leptomeningeal Metastases

Radiation therapy to sites of symptomatic and bulky disease

Methotrexate (10 mg twice weekly) +

leucovorin

Thiotepa (10 mg twice weekly)

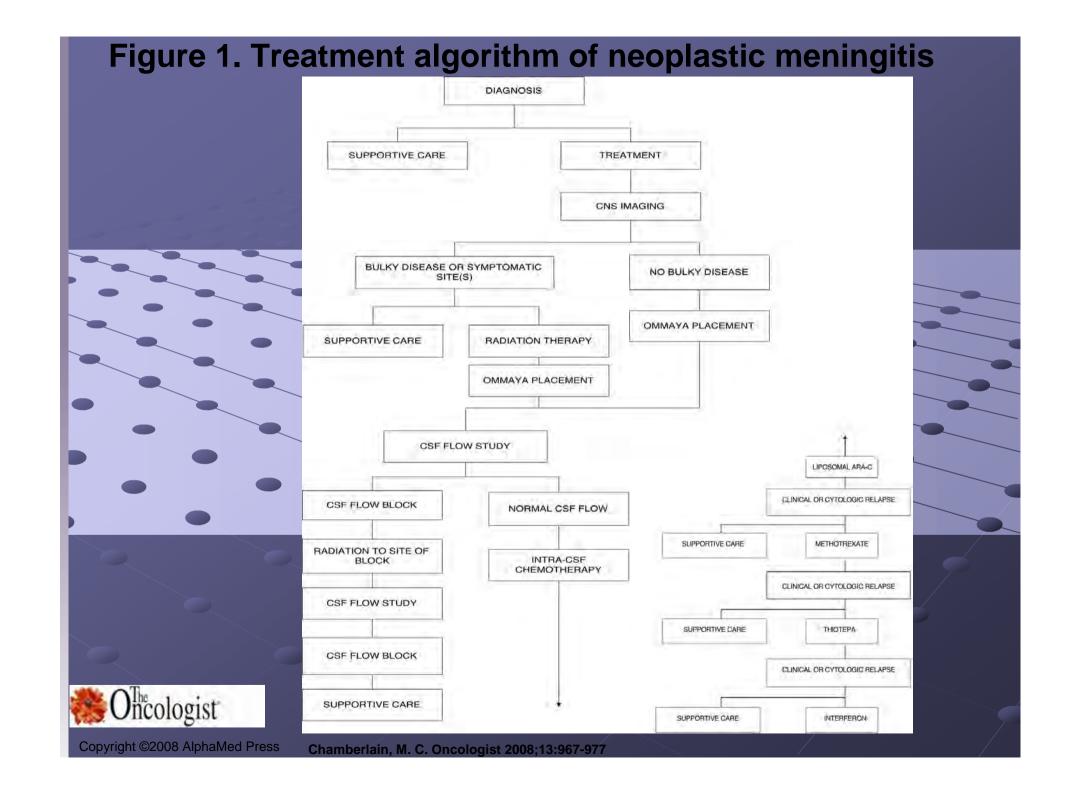
Cytarabine (50 mg twice weekly)

Cytarabine (DepoCyt) (50 mg every 2 weeks)

Systemic chemotherapy (e.g., high-dose methotrexate)

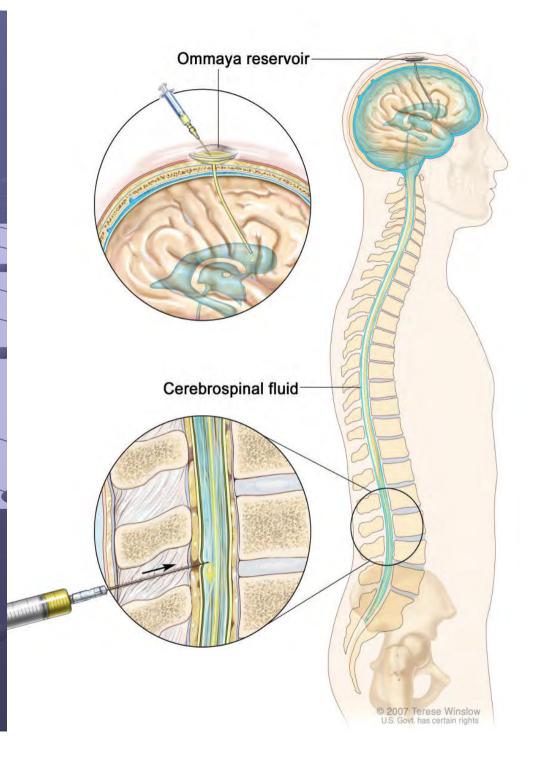
Optimal treatment of systemic disease

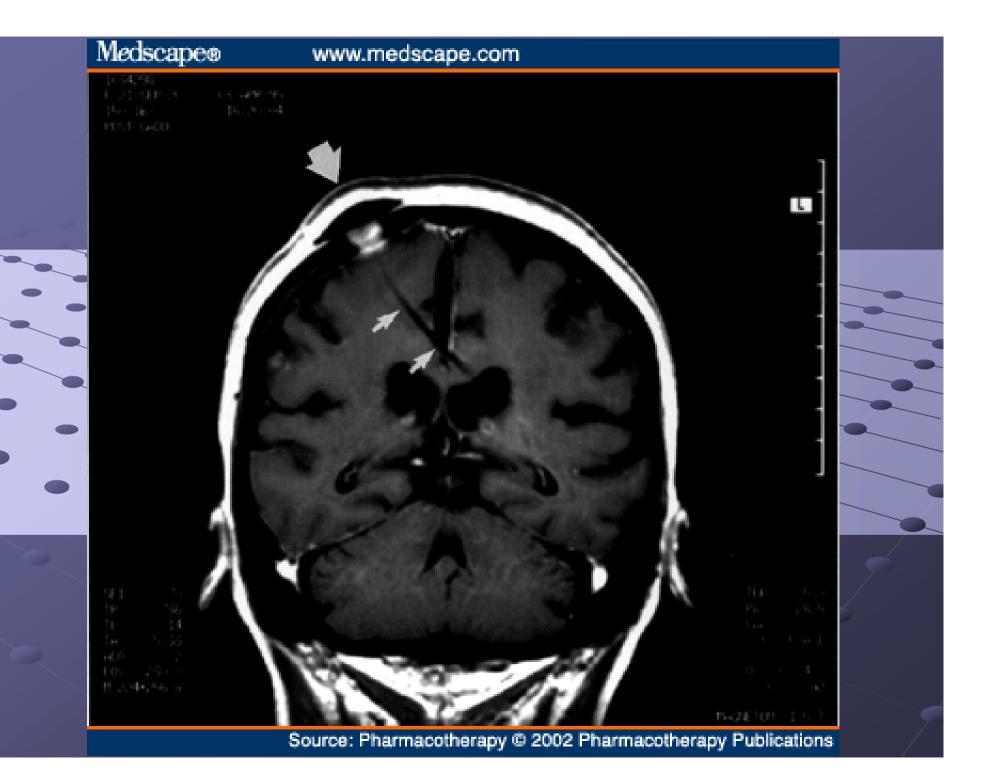
From Bradley: Neurology in Clinical Practice, 5th ed.

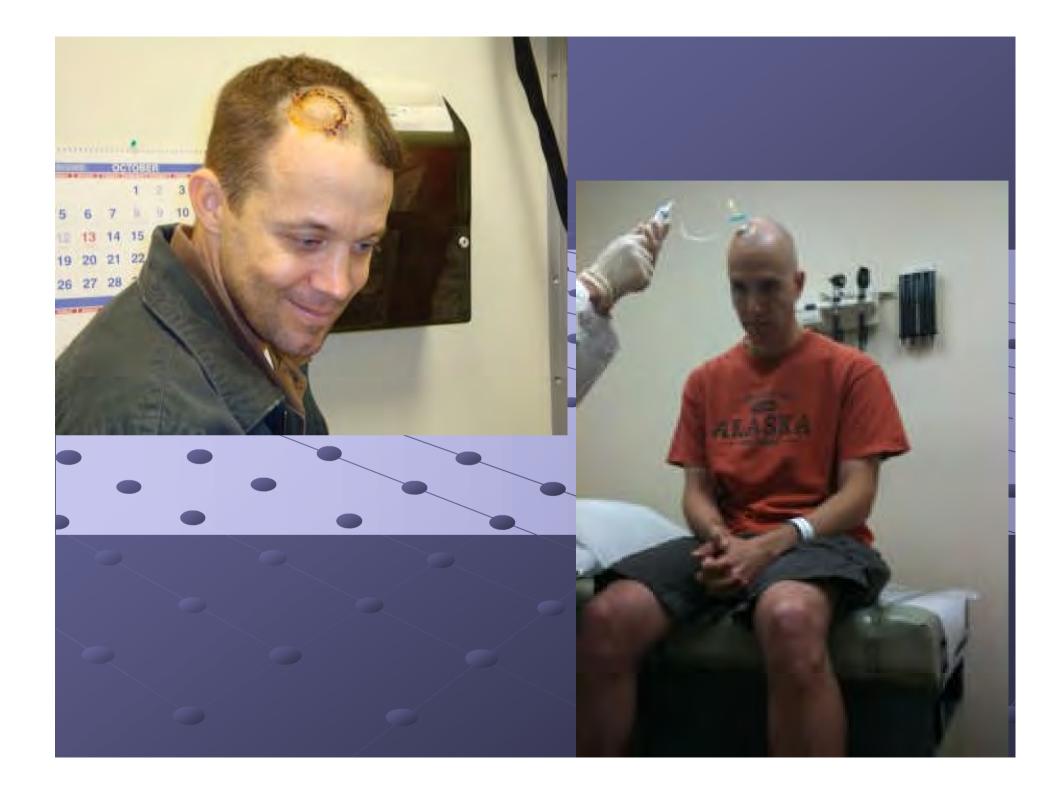


Ommaya Resevoir

- Vs. LP
- Repeated access
- Better tolerated
 - But a procedure
- LP admin 10% leak
- Improved drug distribution
- Side port to convert to shunt if necessary







Experimental Therapies

- New chemotherapeutic agents
- Intrathecal biologic agents, antibodies, and immunoconjugates
- Radioisotopes and radioimmunoconjugates
- Intensive systemic chemotherapy
 - High-dose Mtx with rescue
- Gene therapy