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Letter to the Editor
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Survival Statistics for Glioblastomas may be Improved

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Since the time of Harvey Cushing, there has been little, if any, improvement in the treatment of severe brain tumors (glioblastoma multiforme WHO IV). The major problem with this situation is that appropriate chemotherapeutic agents cannot penetrate into the brain because of Blood Brain Barrier (BBB) vessels. It has now been shown that it is possible to introduce large volumes of chemotherapeutic agents into the brain over an extended period of time by way of capillaries originating from the omentum when placed on the brain. These omental vessels have been proven to penetrate directly and deeply into the brain, and it is expected in the future that this penetration will offer the ability to deliver chemotherapeutic agents throughout the brain. These omental capillaries are free of endothelial cells, cells that can block a vascular lumen that routinely occurs in BBB vessels. Capillary vessels have complete absence of endothelial cells in their lumen, but BBB vessels have endothelial cells that block the passage of chemotherapeutic agents through their vessel wall into the brain. The omental vessels raise the potential for chemotherapeutic agents to be able to enter the brain of glioblastoma tumors. This is the hope that the poor survival statistics of glioblastomas can be improved.

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