

- 32 Bleehen NM, Freedman LS, Stenning SP. A randomized study of CCNU with and without benzimidazole in the treatment of recurrent grades 3 and 4 astrocytoma. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1989;16:1077-8.
- 33 Sneed PK, Gutin PH. Interstitial radiation therapy of brain tumours. In: Morantz RA, Walsh JW, eds. *Brain tumours*, New York: Marcel Dekker Inc, 1994:79-92.
- 34 Stenning SP, Freedman LS, Bleehen NM. An overview of published results from randomized studies of nitrosoureas in primary high grade malignant glioma. *Br J Cancer* 1987;56:89-90.
- 35 Blasberg RG, Groothuis DR. Chemotherapy of brain tumors: physiological and pharmacokinetic considerations. *Semin Oncol* 1986;13:70-82.
- 36 Seitz RJ, Wechsler W. Immunohistochemical demonstration of serum proteins in human cerebral gliomas. *Acta Neuropath (Berl)* 1987;73:145-52.
- 37 Sariban E, Kohn KW, Zlotogorski C *et al*. DNA cross-linking responses of human malignant glioma cell strains to chloroethylnitrosoureas, cisplatin and diaziquone. *Cancer Res* 1987;47:3988-94.
- 38 Taylor SA. *ew* agents in the treatment of primary brain tumours. *J Neurooncol* 1994;20:141-53.
- 39 Loew F, Papavero L. The intra-arterial route of drug delivery in the chemotherapy of malignant brain tumour. *Adva Tech Stand Neurosurg* 1988;16:51-82.
- 40 Brem H, Piantadosi S, Burger PC, *et al*. Placebo-controlled trial of safety and efficacy of intraoperative controlled delivery by biodegradable polymers of chemotherapy for recurrent gliomas. *Lancet* 1995;345:1008-12.
- 41 Masciopinto J, Levin AB, Melita MP, *et al*. Stereotactic radiosurgery for glioblastoma: a final report of 31 patients. *J Neurosurg* 1995;82:530-35.
- 42 Kaye A, Hill J S. Photodynamic therapy of brain tumours. *Neurosurgery Quarterly* 1992;1:223-45.
- 43 Oldfield EH, Ram Z, Culver KW, *et al*. Clinical protocols: gene therapy for the treatment of brain tumours using intratumoural transduction with the thymidine kinase gene and intravenous ganciclovir. *Hum Gene Ther* 1993;4:39-69.
- 44 Culver KW, Ram Z, Walbridge S, *et al*. In vivo gene transfer with retroviral vector-producing cells for the treatment of experimental brain tumours. *Science* 1992;256:1550-2.
- 45 Brown JY, Saleh M. Retroviruses and DNA: gene therapy for brain tumours. *J Clin Neurosci* 1995;2:16-23.
- 46 Jaekie KA. Immunotherapy of malignant glioma. *Semin Oncol* 1994;21:49-59.
- 47 Nitta T, Sato K, Yagita H, *et al*. Preliminary trial of specific targeting therapy against malignant glioma. *Lancet* 1990;335:368-76.
- 48 Whittle IR, Broadbent M, Boyd A, *et al*. Public perceptions of brain tumours in Scotland: the need for access to information. *Scottish Medical Journal* 1995 (in press).
- 49 Aiken Robert D. Quality of life issues in patients with malignant gliomas. *Semin Oncol* 1994;21:273-5.
- 50 Mackworth N, Fobair P, Prados MD. Quality of life self reports from 200 brain tumour patients: comparisons with Karnofsky performance. *J Neurooncol* 1992;14:243-53.

NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

Willow

Two thousand, four hundred years ago Hippocrates recommended chewing willow leaves for analgesia during childbirth and for postpartum fever. Pliny in Rome in the first century AD prescribed the bark of the poplar (which is also a member of the willow (*salix*) family) for sciatic pain.

In the 1830s salicin and its derivative salicylic acid were isolated from white willow and various other plants. In the 1870s, salicylic acid was synthesised. Felix Hoffman, a chemist at the Bayer Pharmaceuticals Company in Germany later produced a modified form of salicylic acid, the acetyl derivative, which was effective against fever and arthritic pain. Its antithrombotic properties were described in the 1940s. The name aspirin came from the *Spiraea* plant, one of the other sources of salicylic acid. The prefix *a* was added to signify acetyl. Aspirin contains no willow derivatives and is entirely synthetic.

A row of willows is shown on a stamp issued in 1973 depicting Swedish landscapes (Stanley Gibbons 736, Scott 158).



L F HAAS