Recurrent spinal cord astrocytoma with intraventricular seeding.

PATIENT: We report on an unusual case of a recurrent and progressive spinal pilocytic astrocytoma with metastatic spreading to the hypothalamus in a 14-year-old boy.

TREATMENT AND RESULTS: The patient underwent resection of an intramedullary atypical pilocytic astrocytoma classified as WHO grade II at the level of Th11/12 in 1997 and received local photon beam irradiation. Three years later, a second operation was necessary for a recurrent tumour at the same level. Seventeen months later, a second recurrent tumour with spinal seeding as well as an intracranial tumour in the third ventricle and hypothalamus was detected. He was shunted for an occlusive hydrocephalus and a stereotactic biopsy of the hypothalamic lesion was performed. The tumour was classified as anaplastic pilocytic astrocytoma (WHO grade III). He received chemotherapy with ifosfamide, cisplatin and etoposide (HIT-GBM-C-protocol), craniospinal radiation, and is still alive 60 months after the first operative intervention without neurological deficits.