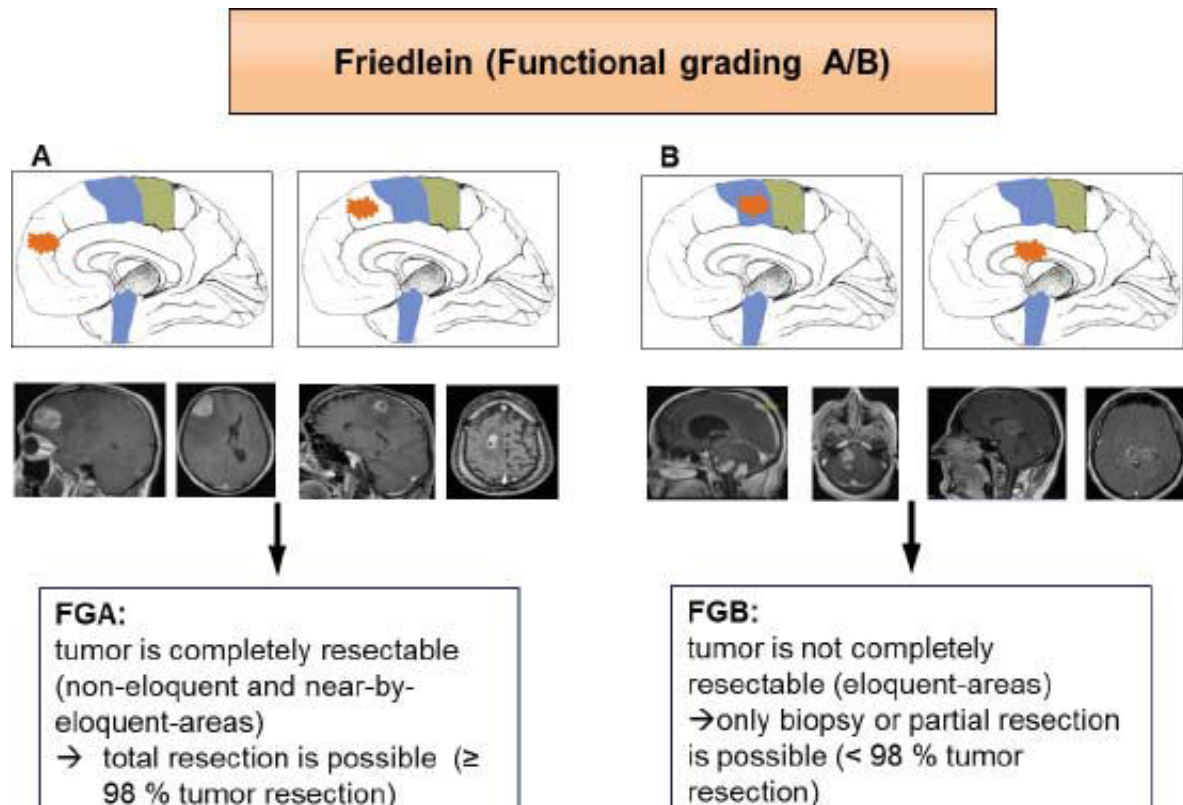


New classification system for brain tumours

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Classifying tumours in an uncomplicated manner in clinical practice using MRI scans. Credit: Nicolai Savaskan

Despite modern chemoradiation therapy it is still very difficult to give reliable prognoses for malignant gliomas. Surgical removal of the glioma is still the preferred method of treatment. Doctors at Universitätsklinikum Erlangen's Department of Neurosurgery have now developed a new procedure for analysing radiological imaging scans

which makes it possible to predict the course of a disease relatively precisely. Their findings have now been published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The Friedlein Grading A/B (FGA/B) classification system - named after the physician Katharina Friedlein - is a quick and precise way of determining whether surgical removal is the best possible treatment method for a given tumour. Essentially, the Erlangen-based doctors classify tumours according to their position in the brain in the context of a routine [magnetic resonance imaging](#) (MRI) scan. Tumours that are not located in functional brain regions or that are located at a certain distance from such regions are classified as FGA, while tumours that are close to or inside a functional brain region are classified as FGB.

With the FGA/B method it possible to plan the consequences of tumour surgery, which is crucial for the success of the treatment, in a precise, low-risk and quantitative manner. This makes the Friedlein Grading system the first classification system which can be easily applied in [clinical practice](#). 'There have already been several attempts in medicine to develop such a [classification system](#). However, most approaches were too complicated and were based on academic values only, which made it difficult to use them in clinical practice,' says PD Dr. Nicolai Savaskan from FAU's Chair of Neurosurgery. 'The FGA/B method can be applied on the basis of a standard MRI scan which glioma patients have to undergo anyway and is highly reliable despite being so simple. We hope that our colleagues in neurosurgery departments in smaller hospitals will also be able to use it successfully in everyday clinical practice.'

More information: *Scientific Reports*, July 2015. A new functional classification system (FGA/B) with prognostic value for glioma patients. Katharina Friedlein, Yavor Bozhkov, Nirjhar Hore, Andreas Merkel, Björn Sommer, Sebastian Brandner, Michael Buchfelder, Nicolai E. Savaskan & Ilker Y. Eyüpoglu.

Provided by University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

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