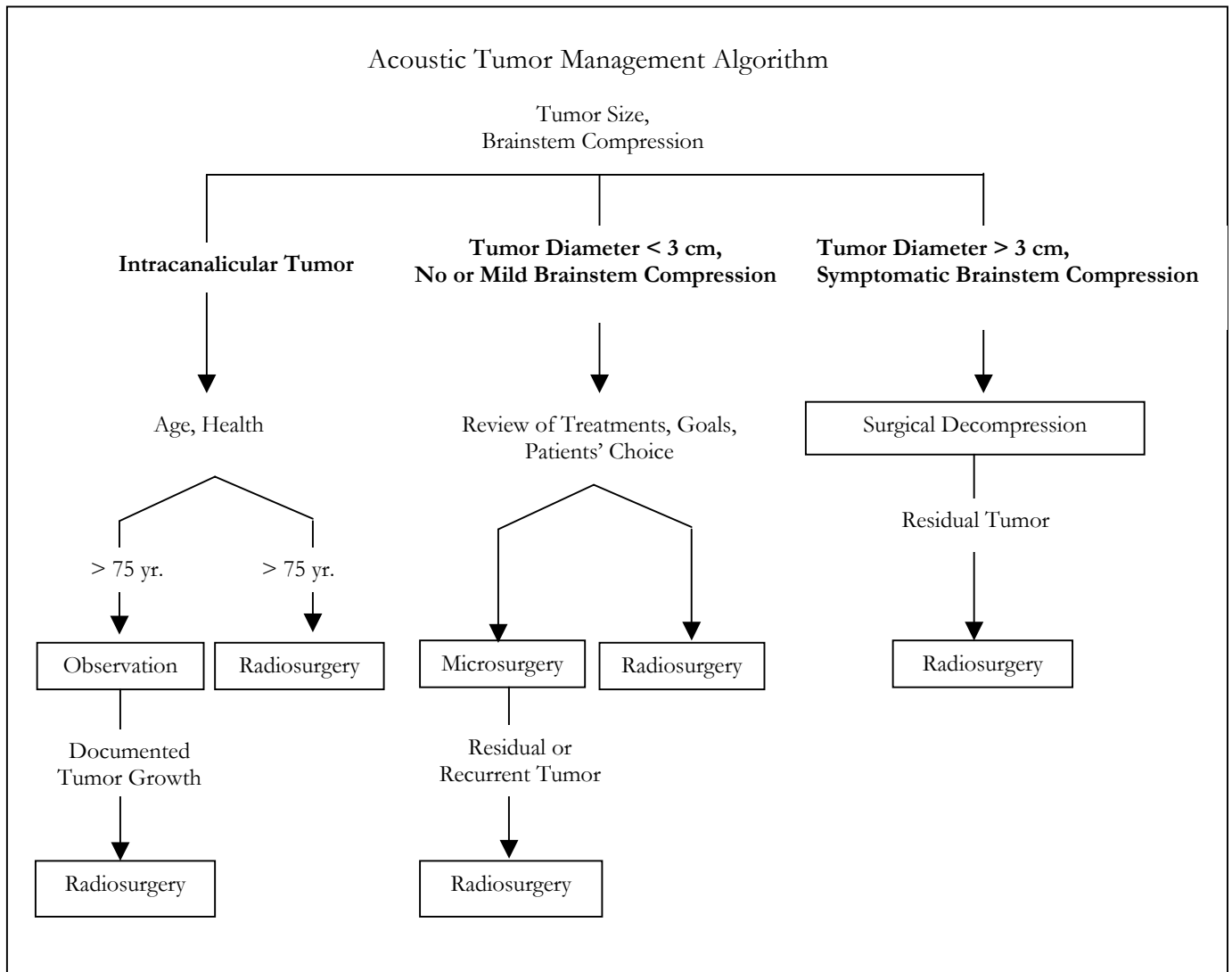


Acoustic Tumor Management

A number of factors are considered in making a recommendation. These factors include:

1. Patient's Age
2. Patient's Medical Condition
3. Tumor Size
4. Presenting Symptoms
5. Brain Stem Compression
6. Patient's Goals and Choice*
7. Prior Procedure and Response
8. Current Neurological Status

A broad outline of management algorithm is shown; however, the final recommendation is usually influenced by the recommending neurosurgeon's experience and availability of technology along with patient preference.



* Patient Goals:

Patient goals are specific to the individual and must be clearly outlined with your treating neurosurgeon. Patients who have small to medium tumors (<3 cm) and would be comfortable with tumor growth control, low rates of facial dysfunction and high rates of hearing preservation should consider radiosurgery. Patients who have large tumors (>3 cm), or that believe it would be better to have the tumor removed and are prepared to accept higher short term and permanent complication rates should seek surgery with an experienced neurosurgeon who routinely performs removals of acoustic neuromas for best results.