part of the brain, primarily in the cerebellum or brainstem. This anatomic distribution accounts for the frequency of symptoms resulting from increased intracranial pressure (ICP). The other tumors are supratentorial or lie within the midbrain structures. Fig. 25-5 outlines major brain tumors of childhood.

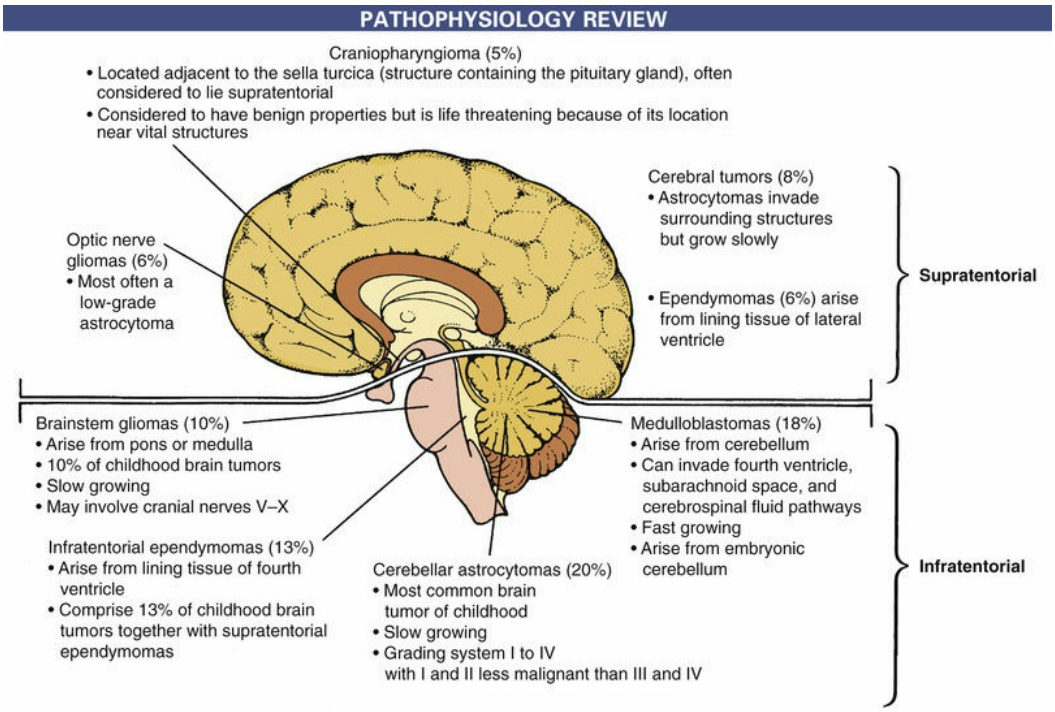

FIG 25-5 Location of brain tumors in children. (From McCance KL, Huether SE: *Pathophysiology: the biological basis for disease in adults and children,* ed 7, St Louis, 2014, Elsevier.)

Because the neoplasms can arise from any cell within the cranium, it is possible to have tumors originating from the glial cells, nerve cells, neuroepithelium, cranial nerves, blood vessels, pineal gland, and hypophysis. Within each of these structures, specific cells may be involved to provide a histologic classification of the major tumors found in children. Astrocytes, cells that form most of the supportive tissue for the neurons, may form astrocytomas, which is the most common glial tumor (Parsons, Pollack, Hass-Kogan et al, 2016). Brain tumors may be benign or malignant, although the designation of any tumor in the brain as "benign" should be done cautiously given the vital functions the brain controls.