Is it possible for a benign schwannoma to arise on the spinal cord or does one always arise from nerve roots coming off the cord? Example: The medical record indicates a C2-C3 schwannoma. Is this a reportable neoplasm?

Anatomically, schwannomas must be derived from Schwann cells which are not a part of the CNS; therefore, they must all come from peripheral nerves, and as such come from nerve roots. The definition of reportable non-malignant sites includes the spinal cord (C72). It does not include "spinal nerves" (C47); consequently, schwannomas of the spinal cord area are not reportable.

If the surgeon states "resection of intradural extramedullary schwannoma," does this mean that the tumor is outside the cord but within the dura?

Yes, but it also means it is on a peripheral nerve root and therefore is not reportable.

Are vestibular schwannomas reportable?

Vestibular schwannomas, also known as acoustic neuromas, arise from the VIIIth cranial nerve (C72.4). Tumors of the cranial nerves are reportable. Code these tumors to acoustic nerve C72.4 M-9560/0.

Are cerebellopontine angle tumors reportable?

Cerebellopontine angle schwannomas are VIIIth cranial nerve schwannomas, and are reportable. However, cerebellopontine angle tumors also include meningiomas and epidermoids, so you must have histologic verification to code them correctly.

Is a schwannoma of the face reportable?

Subcutaneous or intramuscular schwannomas, including those on the face or neck, arise from a peripheral nerve root; therefore, they are not reportable.

Source: NPCR/CDC Brain Tumor Reporting Training Material at http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/training/btr/clarification.htm#1