

### **Pilocystic astrocytoma:**

- Tumours of children and young adults. 15% of intracranial tumours in children. The most common location is cerebellum followed by hypothalamic –chiasmatic region, less commonly found in the brain stem and spinal cord (account for 60% of intramedullary tumours) **.75% below the age of 20 years**. The majority are sporadic. **Optic nerve gliomas occur in 14-40% of patients with NF1**.
- Cerebellar lesions as below. Hypothalamic lesions as below
- Histology as above. Grossly circumscribed but microscopically there is often brain invasion
- Contrary fibrillary astrocytomas ,malignant changes are very rare and the recurrent tumour almost always has the same histology
- Treatment is radical surgical resection of the tumour
- 10 year survival is 100% with total excision, 80% with subtotal excision and 40% with biopsy
- Radiotherapy is generally not indicated for this tumour. Chemotherapy is indicated for multifocal spread ( 73% stabilisation rate in one study)