

Brain tumor:

A brain tumor is the growth of abnormal cells in the brain.

Many different types of brain tumors exist. Some brain tumors are benign, and some brain tumors are malignant.

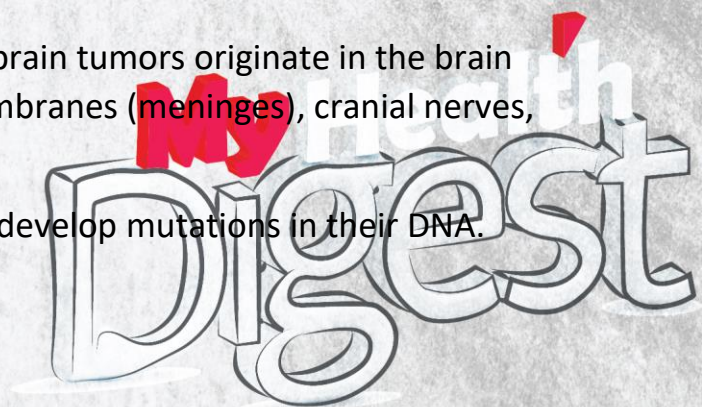
Symptoms:

- Headaches that gradually get more severe and frequent
- Unexplained nausea or vomiting
- Vision problems
- Gradual loss of sensation or movement in an arm or a leg
- Difficulty with balance
- Speech difficulties
- Confusion in everyday matters
- Difficulty making decisions
- Inability to follow simple commands
- Personality or behavior changes
- Seizures, especially if the patient doesn't have a history of seizures
- Hearing problems

Causes:

Brain tumors that begin in the brain: Primary brain tumors originate in the brain or close to it, such as in the brain-covering membranes (meninges), cranial nerves, pituitary gland or pineal gland.

Primary brain tumors begin when normal cells develop mutations in their DNA.



Cancer that begins elsewhere and spreads to the brain: Any cancer can spread to the brain, but common types include:

- Breast cancer
- Colon cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Lung cancer
- Melanoma

Risk Factors:

Exposure to radiation

Family history of brain tumors

Treatment:

The treatment of brain tumor is according the type, size and location of the tumor, as well as the patient's overall health.

Surgery: in cases where brain tumors are small and easy to separate from surrounding brain tissue surgical removal is possible.

Radiation therapy: uses high-energy beams, such as X-rays or protons, to destroy tumor cells.

Radiosurgery: Stereotactic radiosurgery is not a traditional form of surgery; it uses multiple beams of radiation to give a highly focused form of radiation treatment to destroy the tumor cells in a very small area.

Chemotherapy: uses drugs to kill tumor cells. The drugs can be in pill form or injected into a vein (intravenously).



Rehabilitation after treatment

Because brain tumors can develop in parts of the brain that control motor skills, speech, vision and thinking, rehabilitation may be a necessary part of recovery. Depending on your needs, your doctor may refer you to:

- **Physical therapy** to help you regain lost motor skills or muscle strength
- **Occupational therapy** to help you get back to your normal daily activities, including work, after a brain tumor or other illness
- **Speech therapy** with specialists in speech difficulties (speech pathologists) to help if you have difficulty speaking
- **Tutoring for school-age children** to help kids cope with changes in their memory and thinking after a brain tumor

