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Pituitary Tumors

Your pituitary gland is a pea-sized gland at the base of your brain. The pituitary is the "master control gland" - it makes hormones that affect growth and the functions of other glands in the body.

Pituitary tumors are common, but often they don't cause health problems. Most people with pituitary tumors never even know they have them. The most common type of pituitary tumor produces hormones and disrupts the balance of hormones in your body. This can cause endocrine diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/endocrineldiseases.html>] such as Cushing's syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/cushingssyndrome.html>] and hyperthyroidism [<https://medlineplus.gov/hyperthyroidism.html>].

Symptoms of pituitary tumors include:

- Headaches
- Vision problems
- Nausea and vomiting
- Problems caused by the production of too many hormones

Pituitary tumors are usually curable. Treatment is often surgery to remove the tumor. Other options include medicines, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy.

Start Here

- About Pituitary Tumors [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pituitarytumors/conditioninfo>]
 (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/salud/temas/pituitarytumors/informacion>]
- General Information about Pituitary Tumors [https://www.cancer.gov/types/pituitary/patient/pituitary-treatment-pdq#_1]
 (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/hipofisis/paciente/tratamiento-hipofisis-pdq>]
- Pituitary Tumors [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/endocrine-library/pituitary-tumors>] (Endocrine Society)
- Pituitary Tumors [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/pituitary-tumors>]
 (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- What Are Pituitary Tumors? [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/pituitary-tumors/about/what-is-pituitary-tumor.html>]
(American Cancer Society)

Symptoms

- What Are the Symptoms of Pituitary Tumors?
[<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pituitarytumors/conditioninfo/symptoms>]
 (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/salud/temas/pituitarytumors/informacion/sintomas>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/adrenocorticotrophic-hormone-acth/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/hormona-adrenocorticotropica-acth/>]
- Brain MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/mri-brain>]  (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/mri-brain>]
- Growth Hormone Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/growth-hormone-tests>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-la-hormona-del-crecimiento/>]
- IGF-1 (Insulin-like Growth Factor 1) Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/igf-1-insulin-like-growth-factor-1-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-igf-1-factor-de-crecimiento-similar-a-la-insulina-1/>]
- Prolactin Levels [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/prolactin-levels/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/niveles-de-prolactina/>]
- Stages of Pituitary Tumors [https://www.cancer.gov/types/pituitary/patient/pituitary-treatment-pdq#_29]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/hipofisis/paciente/tratamiento-hipofisis-pdq#_31]
- Tests for Pituitary Tumors [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/pituitary-tumors/detection-diagnosis-staging/how-diagnosed.html>] (American Cancer Society)
- TSH (Thyroid-stimulating hormone) test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/tsh-thyroid-stimulating-hormone-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-tsh/>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Pituitary Tumors Treatment [<https://www.cancer.gov/types/pituitary/patient/pituitary-treatment-pdq>]  (National Cancer Institute)
- Treatment Option Overview (Pituitary Tumors) [https://www.cancer.gov/types/pituitary/patient/pituitary-treatment-pdq#_53]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/hipofisis/paciente/tratamiento-hipofisis-pdq#_55]

Related Issues

- Living as a Pituitary Tumor Survivor [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/pituitary-tumors/after-treatment/follow-up.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Specifics

- Prolactinoma [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/endocrine-diseases/prolactinoma>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/enfermedades-endocrinas/prolactinoma>]

Genetics

- Familial isolated pituitary adenoma: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/familial-isolated-pituitary-adenoma>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Risk Factors for Pituitary Tumors [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/pituitary-tumors/causes-risks-prevention/risk-factors.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Videos and Tutorials

- Pituitary gland [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000099.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000099.htm>]

Statistics and Research

- Key Statistics about Pituitary Tumors [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/pituitary-tumors/about/key-statistics.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Pituitary Neoplasms [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Pituitary+Neoplasms%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Prolactinoma [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Prolactinoma%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Dysregulation of Purinergic Signaling Sustains Chronic Inflammation and Oxidative Imbalance in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40725135>]
- Article: Comparative analysis of clinical features, methylation and immune microenvironment in pediatric... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40721446>]
- Article: Enhanced intraoperative visualization of the optic chiasm using contrast-enhanced balanced steady-state... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40715232>]
- Pituitary Tumors -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Pituitary+Neoplasms%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/>]
- Find an Endocrinologist [<https://www.endocrine.org/patient-engagement/find-an-endocrinologist-directory>] (Endocrine Society)
- National Cancer Institute [<https://www.cancer.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol>]
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/>] 
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Childhood Craniopharyngioma [<https://www.cancer.gov/types/brain/patient/child-cranio-treatment-pdq>] 
(National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/cerebro/paciente/tratamiento-craneo-infantil-pdq>]
- Stages of Childhood Craniopharyngioma [https://www.cancer.gov/types/brain/patient/child-cranio-treatment-pdq#_25] 
(National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/cerebro/paciente/tratamiento-craneo-infantil-pdq#_34]
- Treatment Option Overview (Childhood Craniopharyngioma) [https://www.cancer.gov/types/brain/patient/child-cranio-treatment-pdq#_49] 
(National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/cerebro/paciente/tratamiento-craneo-infantil-pdq#_39]

Patient Handouts

- Craniopharyngioma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000345.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000345.htm>]

- Growth hormone test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003706.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003706.htm>]
- Pituitary tumor [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000704.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000704.htm>]
- Prolactin blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003718.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003718.htm>]
- Prolactinoma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000336.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000336.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- ACTH blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003695.htm>]
- Craniopharyngioma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000345.htm>]
- Growth hormone test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003706.htm>]
- Head MRI [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003791.htm>]
- Pituitary apoplexy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001167.htm>]
- Pituitary gland [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000099.htm>]
- Pituitary tumor [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000704.htm>]
- Prolactin blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003718.htm>]
- Prolactinoma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000336.htm>]
- Stereotactic radiosurgery - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000131.htm>]

Related Health Topics

- Pituitary Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/pituitarydisorders.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Pituitary Tumors* is the National Cancer Institute [<http://www.cancer.gov/>]

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