

A tumor of the central nervous system (CNS) refers to an abnormal growth of cells that develops in the tissues of the brain or spinal cord, which together make up the CNS. Avoid unnecessary radiation exposure, such as frequent X-rays or radiation therapy. Examples include:

- o Gliomas (arising from glial cells)
- o Meningiomas (from the meninges)
- o Pituitary adenomas (from the pituitary gland)

Complications of tumors in the central nervous system (CNS) can vary based on the type, location, and size of the tumor, as well as the individual patient's health.

**Hereditary Conditions**

- o Some genetic syndromes increase the risk of CNS tumors, including:
  - o Neurofibromatosis types 1 and 2 (NF1, NF2)
  - o Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome
  - o Li-Fraumeni syndrome
  - o Tuberous sclerosis

**3. Increased Intracranial Pressure (ICP)**

- Tumors can cause swelling or blockage of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) flow, leading to increased pressure in the skull, which can cause headaches, nausea, and vomiting.

**Environmental Toxins**

- o Research is ongoing into whether exposure to certain chemicals, such as pesticides and industrial solvents, increases the likelihood of CNS tumors.

**Infections**

- o Viruses such as Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) have been linked to an increased risk of CNS lymphomas, particularly in individuals with weakened immune systems.

**Immune System Disorders**

- o Individuals with compromised immune systems, either from genetic conditions or immunosuppressive treatments, are at higher risk for CNS tumors, particularly primary CNS lymphoma.

**Psychosocial Impact** – The diagnosis and treatment of CNS tumors can lead to anxiety, depression, and challenges in social interactions or employment.

**Neurological Deficits** – Depending on the tumor's location, patients may experience weakness, sensory loss, coordination issues, or speech difficulties.

**Hydrocephalus** – Blockage of CSF pathways can lead to an accumulation of CSF in the ventricles, causing hydrocephalus, which may require surgical intervention.

**Radiation Exposure**

- o Ionizing radiation, particularly from radiation therapy used to treat other cancers, is a well-established risk factor for brain and spinal cord tumors.

**Recurrence** – Many CNS tumors have a tendency to recur, necessitating ongoing monitoring and possible further treatment.

Adults and children both undergo a similar set of tests to diagnose CNS tumors, including:

- \* Medical history
- \* Blood test
- \* X-ray
- \* CT scan
- \* MRI

Most patients who have CNS tumors do not have a family record of the disease.

**Surgical Complications** – Surgery to remove a tumor carries risks like infection, bleeding, and damage to surrounding brain tissue.

**Causes of Central Nervous System (CNS) Tumors**

CNS tumors can arise due to a variety of factors, though the exact causes remain unclear in many cases. These tumors can be benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).