



symptoms of a brain tumour...

common symptoms of brain tumours include

headaches

seizures

feeling or being sick

Brain tumours cause symptoms because of their position in the brain and the space they take up inside the skull when they grow. The symptoms experienced can develop gradually over months and sometimes years if the tumour is slow growing. If the tumour is fast growing, they can develop quickly over days or weeks.

It is important to see your GP if you have any of these symptoms or other changes that are unusual for you or that will not go away. Your symptoms are unlikely to be cancer, but it is important to get them checked as soon as possible.

Professional medical advice should always be sought to check the cause of symptoms as soon as possible. Because these symptoms overlap with so many other conditions, it is important to get the correct diagnosis. Earlier diagnosis and treatment provide a better outlook.

visit www.yorksbtc.org.uk/Loving-Support for more information

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headaches

Headaches are one of the main symptoms of a brain tumour. It is unlikely that you have a brain tumour if headaches are your only symptom. Headaches caused by a brain tumour tend to:

- Be worse in the morning
- Wake you up at night
- Be severe and persistent
- Get worse over a number of days, weeks or months
- Give stabbing pains if you do anything to increase the pressure in your head, e.g. shouting, bending over, exercising or coughing

seizures

Seizures, also known as fits, happen in approximately 8 out of every 10 people with a brain tumour. You might experience some jerking or twitching of your hands, arms or legs. Seizures might affect your whole body. Experiencing a seizure is often very frightening. It is important to see your doctor immediately or go to A&E.

problems with your eyes

You may find that your eyesight is getting worse or that your vision comes and goes. You may have blurred or double vision, see floating shapes, experience tunnel vision or lose the ability to see out of the corner of your eyes. You may have a problem looking upwards or controlling eye movements. As the tumour grows it may cause the eyeball to bulge forwards.

personality and behaviour changes

You, or the people around you, may notice that you are confused or that your personality has changed. You may find it difficult to think normally. You may have been easy to get along with, but now you're more easily irritated or you're relaxed one minute and then starting an argument for no reason the next.

feeling or being sick

It is rare for people with a brain tumour to have sickness on its own, you may have it with other symptoms, like headaches.

other symptoms

Brain tumours can cause different symptoms depending on where they are in the brain. Other symptoms, which may come and go, include:

- Extreme or sudden drowsiness
- Confusion
- Tinnitus (ringing in the ears) or hearing loss
- Loss of balance
- Unexplained twitches of the face or limbs
- Numbness or weakness in a part of the face, so that the muscles drop slightly or in one side of the body
- Difficulty swallowing and speaking
- Appearing to be lost in a deep daydream for a short while
- Impaired memory or mental ability
- Changes in your sense of smell
- Problems with speech, reading, writing or drawing
- Changes in sleep patterns
- Difficulty concentrating
- Hearing voices in your head
- Difficulty to identify the colour and size of objects

pituitary gland tumours

The pituitary gland makes hormones that are important to your body to function. Symptoms are often due to changes in the levels of hormones that the gland produces. Symptoms caused by hormonal fluctuations include:

- Delayed puberty in children
- Extreme growth spurts in both children and adults, particularly of hands or feet
- Weight gain or loss (unexplained)
- Infertility
- Mood changes
- High or low blood pressure
- High blood sugar levels (diabetes)
- Changes in menstrual periods or early menopause in women
- Increased or decreased sexual drive
- Loss of muscle mass in adults
- Easy bruising of the skin
- Extreme tiredness

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