

Benign Brain Tumors



■ **Benign Brain Tumors:**

- Are a group of similar cells that do not follow normal cell division and growth patterns. They are not similar to cancerous cells.
- Usually grow slowly and rarely spread to surrounding parts of the brain or other organs. (National Cancer Institute)

■ **Causes of Benign Brain Tumors**

- No one knows the exact cause of brain tumors. Most brain tumors happen for no apparent reason.
- Some factors that may increase your risk of getting a brain tumor are:
 - Being male – in general brain tumors are more common in males than females.
 - Being white – brain tumors occur more often in whites than in other races.
 - Your age – your risk of a brain tumor increases as you age. (Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States [CBTRUS]).
 - Exposure to radiation – people who received radiation to treat cancer are more likely to develop brain tumors.
 - Workers exposed on their jobs to vinyl chloride, formaldehyde and acrylonitrile are more likely to develop brain tumors.
 - Family history of brain tumors (National Cancer Institute)

■ **Facts about Benign brain tumors in the United States**

- More than 267,000 people were living with benign brain tumors in 2000.
- In 2005 8.8 people per 100,000 people were diagnosed with benign brain tumors. (Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results [SEER], National Cancer Institute and the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC])
- It is estimated about 20,000 people were diagnosed with benign brain tumors in 2007. (Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States [CBTRUS]).

■ **For more information contact:**

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