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:
- Belinda Heimericks, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Cancer Inquiry Program, at (573) 522-2841. Information is also available at the following web site: www.dhss.mo.gov/CancerInquiry.
- Sue Casteel, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), at (913) 551-1312.
- Marcia Downey, Clinton County Health Department, at (816) 539-2144.