Primary brain cancers:
- are masses of abnormal cells that have grown out of control.
- begin in the brain or near the brain.
- usually grow rapidly and may spread within the brain and spine. (Mayo Clinic)

Causes of primary brain cancer
- No one knows the exact cause of brain cancer. Most cancerous brain tumors happen for no apparent reason.
- Some factors that may increase your risk of getting brain cancer 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.
  - 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 primary brain and central nervous system (spinal column) cancer in the United States
- Brain and central nervous system cancers are reported together. The following information is for both brain and central nervous system cancer.
- More than 81,000 people were living with brain cancer in 2000.
- In 2005 6.4 people in 100,000 were diagnosed with brain and central nervous system cancers. (Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results [SEER], National Cancer Institute and the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC])
- It is estimated that 21,810 new brain and central nervous system cancers will be diagnosed during 2008. (Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States [CBTRUS]).

For more information:
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