



Meningioma



Overview

This is a tumor in your meninges. These thin layers of protective tissue surround your brain and spinal cord. Most meningiomas are not cancerous. They usually grow slowly.

Causes

The cause of a meningioma is not fully understood. It may be linked to your genetics, to your environment or to a combination of factors. It starts with a mutation in a cell's DNA. This genetic blueprint guides cellular growth and functions. The mutation causes the cell to divide abnormally and uncontrollably. A meningioma tumor is a mass of these abnormal cells.

Risk Factors

Certain factors increase your risk for a meningioma. The tumors are more common in women. You have a higher risk if you have had radiation treatment involving your head. And, you have a higher risk if you have an inherited nervous system disorder called "neurofibromatosis type 2."

Symptoms

A meningioma can press against your brain, interfering with its function. Symptoms of a meningioma include headache, hearing loss and changes in vision. You may have problems with your memory. You may lose your sense of smell. You may develop weakness in your limbs, and you may have seizures.

Treatment

Treatment options depend on your tumor and your needs. A small, slow-growing tumor may not need to be treated immediately. If your tumor is aggressive, or if it is causing harmful symptoms, you may benefit from surgery, radiation therapy, medications, or other options. Your healthcare provider will create a care plan that is right for your needs.

