Benign Tumors: MedlinePlusA to Z List of Cancer Types - National Cancer Institute

Brain tumor - Wikipedia

Cushing’s syndrome - Medscape

Symptoms, Treatment Pituitary Tumors Workup: Laboratory Studies, Imaging Pituitary tumors - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic


About Pituitary Tumors - American Cancer Society

Neuroendocrine Tumors: Statistics | Cancer.Net

Home Page: Urology

About Pituitary Tumors

According to the American Cancer Society, few of the 10,000 tumors projected to be diagnosed in 2016 will ... of ACTH causing excessive cortisol production. Most patients have a single adenoma. First described in 1912 by neurosurgeon Harvey Cushing, MD, in his book The Pituitary Body and Its Disorders, Cushing’s disease is the most common cause of spontaneous Cushing’s.

Thickening of the optic nerves. This often leads to blindness.

Carcinomas of the pituitary gland are more common in women than men at all ages and cause symptoms unlike those of adenomas. Most carcinomas are composed of active, rapidly dividing cells that have spread to other parts of the body.

Pituitary disorders occur when your pituitary gland fails to function as it should. If too little of a hormone is made, a condition called hyposecretion or hypofunction occurs. If too much of a hormone is made, a condition called hypersecretion or hyperfunction occurs. For example, if a tumor interrupts the production of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), hypothyroidism occurs.

Neuroendocrine Tumors: Statistics

Primary tumors of the pituitary gland are the second most common histologic category of primary central nervous system tumors across all age groups and are the most common in adolescents to young adults, despite originating from a diminutive neuroendocrine gland that is often described as “...about the size of a pea.” The vast majority of these represent benign tumors.

Primary tumors of the pituitary gland are the second most common histologic category of primary central nervous system tumors across all age groups and are the most common in adolescents to young adults, despite originating from a diminutive neuroendocrine gland that is often described as “...about the size of a pea.”

The most common treatment for pituitary adenomas is surgery, which involves the removal of the tumor. Surgery is usually successful in alleviating symptoms and preventing further growth of the tumor. The success rate of surgery depends on the size and location of the tumor and on whether the tumor can be removed completely or only partially.

Surgical techniques for removing pituitary adenomas include:

(1) transphenoidal surgery; and

(2) anterior transcranial surgery.

Surgical treatment is highly successful in removing most microadenomas and most invasive adenomas. The success rate is lower for invasive adenomas that have spread beyond the pituitary gland, and it is very low for malignant pituitary tumors.

Surgical treatment for pituitary adenomas is usually successful in alleviating symptoms and preventing further growth of the tumor. The success rate of surgery depends on:

(1) the size and location of the tumor,

(2) whether the tumor can be removed completely or only partially,

(3) the type of tumor (adenoma or carcinoma), and

(4) the extent of the tumor.

Even if the tumor is removed completely, recurrence is possible. Some adenomas may recur and require another surgical procedure. In some cases, patients who have adenomas may require long-term treatment with hormone replacement therapy to control the symptoms of their tumor.

If surgery is not an option or cannot be performed, other treatments may be used to stop the growth of the tumor or to relieve its symptoms. These include:

(1) radiation therapy,

(2) chemotherapy,

(3) hormone therapy, and

(4) immunotherapy.

Radiation therapy is usually reserved for patients with tumors that are too large for surgery or for patients who cannot tolerate surgery.

Chemotherapy is used to treat tumors that have spread beyond the pituitary gland. Immunotherapy is used to treat tumors that have spread to other areas of the body.

Hormone therapy may be used to treat tumors that are too large for surgery or for patients who cannot tolerate surgery. Hormone therapy may also be used to treat tumors that have spread to other areas of the body.

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