Quick Facts About Pituitary Tumors

What Is a Pituitary Tumor?

- The pituitary gland is a small gland inside the brain and above the nasal passages.
- Pituitary tumors are an abnormal overgrowth of the normal pituitary gland.
- Some tumors are small (microadenomas), others are large (macroadenomas).
- Most pituitary tumors are benign.

How Can a Pituitary Tumor Affect Me?

- Some pituitary tumors do not cause any problems.
- Pituitary tumors may affect peripheral vision (above).
- Pituitary tumors can make extra hormones and cause hormone imbalances.

What Should I Do About a Pituitary Tumor?

- An ophthalmologist or neuro-ophthalmologist checks your visual acuity, color vision, visual fields, and structure of your optic nerve.
- An endocrinologist checks your hormone levels.
- A neurologist may need to treat your headaches.
- A neurosurgeon may need to perform surgery to remove part of the tumor.

Top: Modified from Radiopaedia.org. Case courtesy of Dr. Frank Gaillard, rID: 17529.

https://www.nanosweb.org/pituitarytumor

© 2023 North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society. All rights reserved.
Developed by the Patient Information Committee of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society. For information and education only.