

Brain Tumour

Understanding your symptoms—and knowing when to seek help

What is a Brain Tumour?

A brain tumour is an abnormal growth of cells inside the brain. These cells grow in a way that is not normal and can form a lump or swelling.

Not all brain tumours are the same. Some grow slowly, while others grow faster. Some are non-cancerous (benign), while others are cancerous (malignant). But regardless of the type, any tumour in the brain needs careful attention—because the brain controls everything we do.

Your brain sits inside the skull, which is a fixed space. This means that even a small growth can start to press on important areas of the brain or nearby nerves. This pressure is what causes many of the symptoms people experience.

A brain tumour can affect:

- Movement
- Speech
- Vision
- Memory
- Balance
- Hormones (especially tumours near the pituitary gland)

Many patients feel anxious when they hear the term “brain tumour.” That is completely understandable. But it’s important to know:

- 👉 Not every brain tumour is life-threatening
- 👉 Many are treatable, especially when detected early
- 👉 Modern treatment options are safe and highly advanced

The key is recognising symptoms early and getting the right advice.

Symptoms to Watch For

Brain tumour symptoms can vary depending on where the tumour is located and how much pressure it is causing.

Some symptoms can be subtle at first and are often mistaken for stress, migraine, or fatigue. However, when symptoms persist or worsen, they should not be ignored.

Common symptoms include:

1. Headaches

- Persistent headaches that do not go away
- Headaches that feel different from your usual pattern
- Pain that is worse in the morning
- Headaches that wake you from sleep

2. Nausea or Vomiting

- Especially in the morning
- Not related to food or stomach issues

3. Vision Problems

- Blurred or double vision
- Loss of part of your vision
- Difficulty focusing

4. Weakness or Numbness

- Weakness in one arm or leg
- Numbness or tingling on one side of the body
- Difficulty holding objects

5. Balance and Coordination Issues

- Feeling unsteady
- Frequent falls
- Difficulty walking straight

6. Changes in Speech or Thinking

- Trouble finding words
- Slurred speech
- Memory problems
- Confusion

7. Seizures (Fits)

- Sudden shaking or loss of consciousness
- New seizures in someone with no history

8. Personality or Behaviour Changes

- Increased irritability
- Unusual behaviour
- Reduced concentration

9. Hormonal Changes (especially pituitary tumours)

- Irregular periods
- Unexplained weight changes
- Fatigue
- Changes in vision

When Should You See a Neurosurgeon?

Many of these symptoms can be caused by less serious conditions. However, certain warning signs should prompt a medical review.


You should consider seeing a doctor if:

- Headaches are persistent or worsening
- You notice new neurological symptoms (weakness, numbness, vision changes)
- You experience a seizure for the first time
- You have ongoing dizziness or balance problems
- Symptoms are affecting your daily life

Seek urgent attention if you experience:

- Sudden weakness in the face, arm, or leg
- Difficulty speaking or understanding speech
- Repeated vomiting with headache
- Loss of consciousness
- Sudden vision loss

These symptoms may indicate increased pressure in the brain or significant nerve involvement.

 It is always better to check early than to wait.

Early evaluation often leads to simpler and more effective treatment.

How is a Brain Tumour Treated?

Treatment depends on several factors:

- The type of tumour
- Its size and location
- Your symptoms
- Your overall health

The most important thing to understand is:

 Treatment is personalised. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

1. Careful Monitoring (Observation)

Not all tumours need immediate treatment.

If a tumour is small and not causing symptoms, your doctor may recommend:

- Regular scans
- Close monitoring

This avoids unnecessary treatment while ensuring safety.

2. Surgery

Surgery is often the main treatment for brain tumours.

The goal of surgery is to:

- Remove the tumour
- Relieve pressure on the brain
- Improve symptoms
- Obtain a diagnosis

Modern neurosurgery is highly advanced and focused on safety and precision.

Techniques may include:

- Microsurgery (using a high-powered microscope)
- Image-guided surgery (like GPS for the brain)
- Awake brain surgery (for tumours near speech or movement areas)
- Endoscopic surgery (minimally invasive, especially for pituitary tumours through the nose)

Many patients are surprised to learn:

- Surgery today is much safer than before
- Recovery is often faster
- Hospital stays are shorter

3. Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy uses focused energy to target tumour cells.

It may be used:

- After surgery to treat remaining tumour cells
- As the main treatment if surgery is not suitable

Modern radiotherapy is highly precise, targeting the tumour while protecting healthy brain tissue.

4. Medication

Some tumours respond well to medication, which may include:

- Drugs to control swelling in the brain
- Medication to prevent seizures
- Hormone treatment (for pituitary tumours)

5. Combined Treatment

In many cases, treatment involves a combination of:

- Surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Medication

The aim is always best outcome with the least impact on your quality of life

Why Choose a Specialist?

When it comes to brain conditions, expertise matters.

The brain is complex and delicate. Treatment requires:

- Deep understanding of brain anatomy
- Advanced surgical skills
- Careful planning
- A multidisciplinary approach

As a Consultant Neurosurgeon, I specialise in treating conditions affecting the brain and spine, including:

- Brain tumours
- Pituitary tumours (through minimally invasive endoscopic surgery)
- Skull base tumours
- Complex neurological conditions

My approach is always centred on you as a patient:

- ✓ Clear explanations in simple language
- ✓ Honest discussion of all options
- ✓ Individualised treatment planning
- ✓ Focus on safety and function
- ✓ Support before, during, and after treatment

I understand that this is not just a medical diagnosis—it is a deeply personal and emotional journey. If you are reading this, you may be worried about your symptoms—or concerned about a diagnosis.

That is completely natural.

But please remember:

- 👉 Not all brain tumours are dangerous
- 👉 Many can be treated effectively
- 👉 Early evaluation gives you the best options

You are not alone in this.

With the right care, many patients return to their normal lives—working, spending time with family, and doing the things they love.

Take the First Step Toward Clarity and Peace of Mind

If you are experiencing ongoing symptoms, or if you have been told you may have a brain tumour, the most important step is to get proper advice.

A consultation can help you:

- Understand what is happening
- Know whether it is serious
- Explore your treatment options
- Gain reassurance and clarity

Book Your Consultation

👤 **Dr. Ravindran Karuppiah**
Consultant Neurosurgeon

- 📍 **Subang Jaya Medical Centre**
- 📍 **ParkCity Medical Centre**
- 📍 **Columbia Asia Hospital Setapak**

📞 **WhatsApp: +6017-504 4389**

Don't ignore persistent symptoms. Don't let uncertainty cause unnecessary worry.

Reach out today—early advice can make all the difference.