**UNDERSTANDING BRAIN CANCER**

**When a doctor tells you that you've been diagnosed with a brain tumor, the news can be life-changing. In the U.S., about 80,000 men, women and children are affected by tumors that start in the brain or spinal cord every year. Though the majority are noncancerous, some form of treatment may be required and many brain tumors are treatable, often without invasive surgery.**

**Here's what you should know about the different kinds of tumors, treatment methods and what to expect from your journey through treatment, recovery and beyond.**

**All brain tumors are abnormal growths of brain or central spine tissue that can disrupt proper brain function. This is how doctors categorize the different kinds:**

**BENIGN**

**This tumor doesn’t contain aggressive cancer cells and, in most cases, doesn’t grow back after being removed. About two-thirds of all brain tumors are benign. Most benign brain tumors don't invade nearby tissue, but they can cause symptoms depending on their size and location in the brain.**

**MALIGNANT**

**This tumor contains cancer cells that typically spread to nearby tissue, but not always to other areas of the body. Malignant brain tumors may recur (grow back) after treatment.**

**Primary: A primary brain tumor starts in the cells of the brain. It may spread to other parts of the brain or spine, but very rarely to other organs.**

**Metastatic: A metastatic brain tumor is malignant and grows from cancer cells that came from another part of the body. This is also called a secondary tumor.**

**COMMON SYMPTOMS**

**Symptoms can depend on the tumor's location, size, rate of growth and stage (how advanced it is).**

**In general, brain tumor symptoms may include:**

**Deep, dull headaches that recur often and persist without relief for long periods of time**

**Difficulty walking, speaking or thinking**

**Seizures**

**Weakness**

**Dizziness**

**Abnormal pulse and breathing rate**

**Eyesight problems, including double vision**

**Vomiting**

**If you have what you think might be symptoms of a brain tumor, call your doctor immediately.**

**Your doctor will ask about your health history and symptoms, and provide a physical and neurological exam. The neurological exam tests reflexes, muscle strength, eye and mouth movement, and coordination. You may be referred to an oncologist (cancer specialist), who will conduct additional tests, CT scan, MRI, PET scan, Biopsy or blood tests.**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT NEUROLOGIC DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES**

**Get a Second Opinion**

**If you've already been diagnosed elsewhere, you may be seeking a second opinion to help you decide on a course of treatment with greater confidence and peace of mind.**

**Other reasons to get a second opinion include:**

**You want to know every available treatment option.**

**Your doctor couldn’t give a specific diagnosis or isn't sure what's wrong.**

**You have a rare or unusual diagnosis.**

**You think there may be other treatment options.**

**Conditions and Treatments**

**Treatments range from conservative approaches, such as active surveillance and minimally invasive procedures, to more traditional brain surgeries.**

**EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES**