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Commentary

Is Throbbing Headache an Indication of a Brain Tumor?

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DESCRIPTION

If you have a little more pain than usual and have a headache that feels different from the typical tension or migraine headaches, you may be wondering if this is any serious sign. You may even wonder if you have a brain tumor. But keep in mind that most headaches are not due to brain tumors. In fact, less than 90,000 people are diagnosed with brain tumors each year in the United States. Most brain tumors actually start somewhere in the body and spread to the brain. These are called metastatic brain tumors. Tumors that form in the brain are called primary brain tumors. Therefore, most headaches don't have to worry. However, headaches are the most common symptom when brain tumors are present. Understanding the difference between a normal headache and a headache that can be a brain tumor can give you some relief. However, if you experience new problems such as headaches and associated symptoms, it is advisable to consult your doctor. Often it is the presence of other symptoms that can help you and your doctor determine the severity of your situation.

Causes of brain tumors

Tumors develop when the DNA of healthy cells changes or mutates to allow the cells to grow rapidly. Brain tumors are abnormal cell masses that can occur in different areas of the brain. The most reliable brain tumors form without known causes. However, certain changes in the cell's DNA affect the genes that control cell growth and division. People can inherit genetic changes that lead to cancer. Genetic changes can also result from long-term exposure to DNA-damaging substances such as cigarette smoke and radiation. Brain tumors can be benign (benign) or malignant (cancerous). Both types of brain tumors increase pressure in the skull and can cause headaches, malaise, and coma. Brain tumors can cause long-term brain damage. Primary brain tumors occur in the brain itself or in nearby tissues such as the brain. The membrane that covers the brain (meninges) is called cranial nerves, pituitary gland or pineal gland. Primary brain tumors begin when normal cells make changes (mutations) in their DNA. Mutations direct cells to grow and divide rapidly and stay alive when healthy cells die. This results an abnormal mass of cells that form the tumor. In adults, primary brain tumors are much less common than secondary brain tumors where the cancer begins elsewhere and spreads to the brain. There are different types of primary brain tumors. Each name is taken from the type of cell involved.

CONCLUSION

Brain tumors increase pressure in the skull and can cause inflammation and tissue damage. Severe persistent headaches are a common symptom of brain tumors. However, most headaches are not a sign of a tumor or cancer. Anyone who notices changes in the frequency or intensity of headaches should see a doctor. Pay attention to other symptoms such as mood, eyesight, and energy levels can help doctors identify the root cause. Few causes of brain tumors in adults or children have been identified. If the analysis is limited to a more homogeneous group of tumors that share morphological and molecular genetic characteristics, it is more likely that a pathogenic association will be recognized. Many subgroups will need to pool data from studies across geographic areas in order to obtain a sufficient number of subjects. Studies of the etiology of glioma can take full advantage of this approach, but the cause is still largely unknown. Gliomas appear to be much more morphologically and genetically diverse than other major categories of CNS tumors. Perhaps more is known about the etiology of meningiomas and schwannomas, as each of these major groups represents a more homogeneous entity than glioma. Nutrition, genetics and immunology will continue to be the main focus of next-generation epidemiological studies of brain tumors.

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