Neurofibromatosis

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/neurofibromatosis.html

Also called: Recklinghausen's disease, von Recklinghausen's disease

Neurofibromatosis is a genetic disorder of the nervous system. It mainly affects how nerve cells form and grow. It causes tumors to grow on nerves. You can get neurofibromatosis from your parents, or it can happen because of a mutation (change) in your genes. Once you have it, you can pass it along to your children. Usually the tumors are benign, but sometimes they can become cancerous.

There are three types of neurofibromatosis:

- Type 1 (NF1) causes skin changes and deformed bones. It usually starts in childhood. Sometimes the symptoms are present at birth.
- Type 2 (NF2) causes hearing loss, ringing in the ears, and poor balance. Symptoms often start in the teen years.
- Schwannomatosis causes intense pain. It is the rarest type.

Doctors diagnose the different types based on the symptoms. Genetic testing is also used to diagnose NF1 and NF2. There is no cure. Treatment can help control symptoms. Depending on the type of disease and how bad it is, treatment may include surgery to remove tumors, radiation therapy, and medicines.

NIH: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Start Here

  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/ias_neurofibromatosis.htm]

Overview


Diagnosis/Symptoms

- Diagnosis of NF1 [http://www.ctf.org/Learn-About-NF/Diagnosis-of-NF1.html] (Children's Tumor Foundation)
- Diagnosis of NF2 [http://www.ctf.org/Learn-About-NF/Diagnosis-of-NF2.html] (Children's Tumor Foundation)

Specific Conditions

- Neurofibromatosis Type 2: Information for Patients and Families [http://www.ctf.org/pdf/brochures/NF2_Info_for_Patients_Families.pdf] (Children's Tumor Foundation) - PDF
- Schwannomatosis [http://www.ctf.org/Learn-About-NF/Schwannomatosis.html] (Children's Tumor Foundation)
• Vestibular Schwannoma (Acoustic Neuroma) and Neurofibromatosis

Related Issues
• About Learning Disabilities and NF [http://www.ctf.org/images/pdf/nf1aboutlearningdisabilities.pdf] (Children's Tumor Foundation) - PDF
• Neurofibromatosis: Common Questions [http://www.ctf.org/images_12/GeneralCTF/NFQandA-Brochure-WEB.pdf] (Children's Tumor Foundation) - PDF

Tutorials

Clinical Trials
• ClinicalTrials.gov: Neurofibromatoses
  [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Neurofibromatoses%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)
• ClinicalTrials.gov: Neurofibromatosis 1
  [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Neurofibromatosis+1%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Genetics
• Learn about NF [http://www.ctf.org/Learn-About-NF/Learn-About-NF.html] (Children's Tumor Foundation)

Journal Articles
References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)
• Article: Teaching NeurolImages: T2 hyperintensities in neurofibromatosis type 1.
• Article: Unilateral gingival enlargement in patient with neurofibromatosis type l.
• Article: Visual outcomes in children with neurofibromatosis type 1 and orbitotemporal...
• Neurofibromatosis — see more articles [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?
[pt]+OR+guideline[pt]+OR+review[pt])+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus]

Directories
• Neurofibromatosis Specialists [http://www.ctf.org/Patient-Information/Find-a-Doctor.html] (Children's Tumor Foundation)

Organizations
• Children's Tumor Foundation [http://www.ctf.org/]
• March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation [http://www.marchofdimes.com/]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nacersano.org/]
• National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [http://www.ninds.nih.gov] NIH
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/]

Statistics
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/neurofibromatosis.html

Children
• Child with NF1 [http://www.ctf.org/images/pdf/childwithnf1.pdf] (Children's Tumor Foundation) - PDF
• Neurofibromatosis (For Parents) [http://kidshealth.org/parent/system/ill/nf.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/medicos/nf_esp.html]

Teenagers

Patient Handouts
• Neurofibromatosis 2 [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000795.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000795.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000847.htm]
• Optic glioma [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001024.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001024.htm]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:
• Neurofibromatosis 2 [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000795.htm]
• Optic glioma [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001024.htm]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:
• Brain and Nerves [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/brainandnerves.html]
• Cancers [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/cancers.html]

The primary NIH organization for research on Neurofibromatosis is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/]

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