Journal of Neuro-Oncology and Neuroscience
ISSN: 2572-0376

Open access Perspective

Understanding Ependymoma: Symptoms, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prognosis

Yet Shin*

Department of Neuro-oncology, Sun Yat-sen University, China

INTRODUCTION

Ependymoma is a rare type of brain and spinal cord tumor that primarily affects both children and adults. Although it is relatively uncommon compared to other brain tumors, understanding this condition is crucial for early diagnosis and effective treatment. In this article, we will delve into the world of ependymoma, exploring its symptoms, diagnosis, treatment options, and prognosis. Ependymoma is a type of glioma, which originates from the ependymal cells lining the fluid-filled spaces in the brain called ventricles and the central canal of the spinal cord. These cells play a vital role in producing cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. When ependymal cells become cancerous, they form tumors that can disrupt the normal flow of CSF, leading to a range of symptoms. The symptoms of ependymoma vary depending on the tumor's location within the central nervous system. Common symptoms may include: Persistent, severe headaches are a common early symptom, often worsened in the morning or when lying down. Increased intracranial pressure from the tumor can lead to nausea and vomiting. Tumors near the optic pathways can cause vision problems such as blurriness, double vision, or even blindness.

DESCRIPTION

Ependymomas in the posterior fossa (back of the brain) can affect balance and coordination, leading to stumbling and difficulty walking. Some individuals with ependymoma may experience seizures, especially if the tumor is near the brain's motor cortex. Tumors affecting the frontal lobes may lead to mood swings, personality changes, or cognitive deficits. The doctor will review the patient's medical history and perform a physical examination to assess neurological symptoms. Brain and spinal cord imaging, such as MRI or CT scans, are crucial for locating and characterizing the tumor. In most cases, a biopsy is necessary to confirm the diagnosis and determine the tumor's grade and subtype. This involves removing a small sample of the tumor tissue for examination. In some instances, a lumbar puncture (spinal tap) may be performed to analyze the cerebrospinal fluid for cancer cells.

The treatment of ependymoma often involves a multi-disciplinary approach and depends on various factors, including the tumor's location, size, grade, and the patient's overall health. Treatment options may include: Surgical removal of the tumor is the primary treatment whenever possible.

CONCLUSION

The prognosis for ependymoma varies depending on several factors, including the tumor's location, grade, extent of surgical removal, and the patient's age. Low-grade ependymomas generally have a better prognosis than high-grade tumors. Long-term survival rates for ependymoma have improved over the years, thanks to advancements in treatment and early detection. Regular follow-up care, including imaging and neurological assessments, is essential to monitor for recurrence and manage potential side effects of treatment. Ependymoma is a rare but serious condition that affects the brain and spinal cord. Recognizing the symptoms and seeking prompt medical attention is crucial for early diagnosis and effective treatment. With the right medical care and ongoing follow-up, many individuals with ependymoma can achieve a positive prognosis and improved quality of life. Advances in medical research and treatment options continue to offer hope for those facing this challenging condition.

Received:	31-May-2023	**Manuscript No:**	IPJNO-23-17969
Editor assigned:	02-June-2023	**PreQC No:**	IPJNO-23-17969 (PQ)
Reviewed:	16-June-2023	**QC No:**	IPJNO-23-17969
Revised:	21-June-2023	**Manuscript No:**	IPJNO-23-17969 (R)
Published:	28-June-2023	**DOI:**	10.21767/2572-0376.8.2.015

Corresponding author Yet Shin, Department of Neuro-oncology, Sun Yat-sen University, China, E-mail: y_34@edu.cn

Citation Shin Y (2023) Understanding Ependymoma: Symptoms, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prognosis. Neurooncol. 8:015.