

Supporting earlier & faster cancer diagnosis

FAST FACTS

ANY PROGRESSIVE SYMPTOMS?

Look for **any** new neurological symptoms, progressing over a few months. Common symptoms include changes in mobility, balance, speech, cognition, mood, or vision. Could any symptoms be seizures?



A

B

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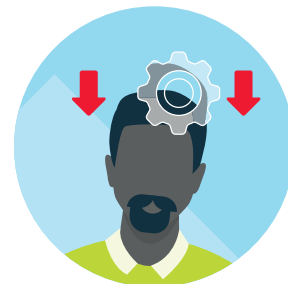
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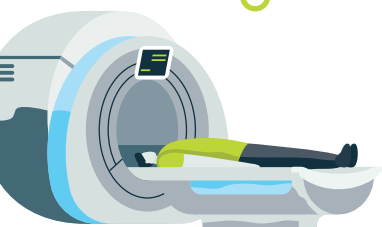
BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

First symptoms can include changes in personality or mood, such as irritability, disinhibition, odd behaviours, low mood or slowed cognition. Differentials can include depression or dementia, but brain tumour symptoms progress over several months.



CT OR MRI SCAN

A normal CT scan does not exclude a brain tumour. An MR scan with contrast is required.



DON'T FORGET 'HEADACHE PLUS'

It is uncommon for headache alone to signify an underlying brain tumour. Headaches of concern are those which are increasing in frequency and severity over a number of months, or are associated with other progressive neurological symptoms.



EYE TESTS

High street optician assessments can rapidly detect or confirm visual field loss or papilloedema and are a useful source of additional assessment. Confirmed visual field loss is a finding highly suspicious for an underlying tumour.



REMEMBER: normal results do not exclude a brain tumour.

FITS

Fits or seizures are a common presenting symptom of brain tumours. Anyone presenting with suspected new onset of fits should be referred for urgent assessment. It is important to remember that not all fits are generalised seizures with loss of consciousness. Fits can include olfactory hallucinations, absences, transient loss of speech, déjà vu, or sensory symptoms. Symptoms may be preceded by an aura, or followed by drowsiness, and any increase in frequency, duration or severity should raise concern.



GREATER MANCHESTER REFERRAL PROFORMA

- Please refer all patients using the Greater Manchester form
- Ensure the patient understands the reason for the referral
- Ensure referral contains a specific clinical history

REFERRAL PROCESS FOR GREATER MCR

History
Examination
GM referral form