



**braintumour**  
foundation  
OF CANADA

For additional Information Sheets or to learn more about other brain tumour topics, visit [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca)

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada Information Sheets are provided as an informational and educational tool and are not intended to replace the advice or instruction of a professional healthcare practitioner, or to substitute for medical care. We urge you to seek specific medical advice on individual matters of concern.

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is generously supported by individuals, corporations and employee groups. It is through the tireless dedication of donors that help is available for anyone affected by a brain tumour, including patients, survivors and their loved ones.

# Brain Tumour Types Info Sheet

## Anaplastic Astrocytoma

### Overview:

*Tumour Group:*  
Gliomas

*WHO Grade:*  
Grade III

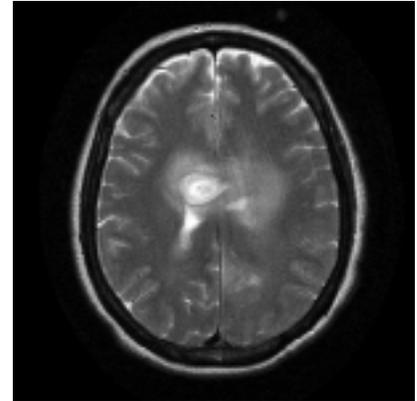
### *Typical Age Range:*

More common among men and women in their 30s to 50s, the mean is approximately 40 years of age. This tumour accounts for 2% of all brain tumours.

### Description of Tumour:

The cells of these tumours are moderately fast-growing and less well-defined than a lower grade astrocytoma (Grade I or II), and are typically diagnosed in adults. Anaplastic astrocytomas can occur anywhere in the brain. They are sometimes found in the brainstem, making a histological diagnosis difficult. Like many brain tumour types, the exact cause of anaplastic astrocytoma is not known.

- Grows faster and more aggressively than Grade II astrocytomas and have an intrinsic tendency for malignant
- Tend to have tentacle-like projections that grow into surrounding tissue, making them difficult to completely remove during surgery
- Tumour cells are not uniform in appearance
- Invades neighbouring tissue
- Anaplastic astrocytomas are more common in men than women.



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## Additional support, information and education offered by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada:

Adult, Pediatric and Non-Malignant Brain Tumour Handbooks available in English and French.

“A Friend in Hope” children’s storybook available in English and French.

20+ Adult Support Groups across Canada (in-person and virtual)

Toll-free information and support line

BrainWAVE Pediatric Support Program

Print BrainStorm Newsletter  
Email Newsletters:  
• E-BrainStorm  
• Peace of Mind

“Grey Matters” Blog

All patient resources are available free-of-charge in Canada. Call 1-800-265-5106 or visit [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca) for additional details and information.

## Symptoms:

Common symptoms include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Changes in behavior
- Headaches
- Memory loss
- Seizures.

## Treatment/Standard of Care:

Treatment depends on the location of the tumour and how far it has progressed. Surgery and radiation therapy, with chemotherapy during or following radiation, are the standard treatments for anaplastic astrocytomas. If surgery is not an option, then the physician may recommend radiation and/or chemotherapy.

## Prognosis:

With standard treatment, median survival for adults with an anaplastic astrocytoma is approximately two to three years. However, the molecular profile of the tumour can help inform a longer or shorter prognosis.

Anaplastic astrocytoma has a strong tendency to progress to glioblastoma multiforme and the pace of progression is variable, but population-based studies suggest a mean time interval of approximately two years for progression.

**For more details, please refer to [braintumour.ca](http://braintumour.ca).**



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