



**braintumour**  
foundation  
OF CANADA

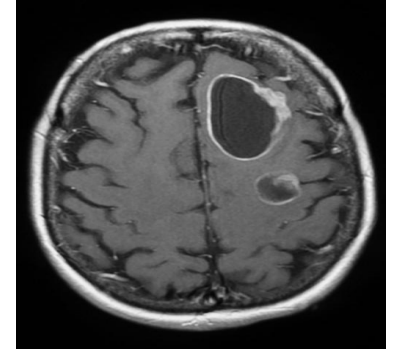
For additional Information Sheets or to learn more about other brain tumour topics, visit [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca)

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

## Metastatic Brain Tumours



### Overview:

#### *Tumour Group:*

Metastatic Brain Tumours are considered a Tumour Group

#### *Prevalence/Incidence:*

People are surviving other cancers longer than ever before. As a result, it is likely that the incidence of metastatic brain tumours will rise in the years to come.

Currently, brain metastases occur in 20-40% of people with cancer.

#### *Typical Age Range:*

Most common among middle-aged and elderly men and women.

### Description of Tumour:

Metastatic brain tumours also called lesions or brain metastases, are caused by cancer that has spread from another part of the body.

- Most brain metastases are located in the cerebrum, but can also develop in the cerebellum or brainstem
- The primary cancer is usually in the lung, breast, colon, kidney or skin (melanoma), but can originate from any cancer in any part of the body.

Tumours that spread to the brain may be single (solitary metastasis) or multiple in number.

### Symptoms:

Symptoms depend on the size and location of the tumour. The spread of a tumour to the brain may produce symptoms before the primary tumour is diagnosed.

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you are **not** alone

**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.

## **Treatment/Standard of Care:**

Surgery, radiation, radiosurgery and supportive care are the main treatment options. For patients with a limited number of tumours then surgery and/or radiosurgery may be delivered followed by whole brain radiation therapy (WBRT). In cases of multiple lesions, WBRT alone may be given. Selected chemotherapy agents have been shown to penetrate the blood-brain barrier and may be used as first-line therapy.

## **Prognosis:**

Brain metastases have a poor prognosis for cure, but modern treatments allow patients to live months, and sometimes years, after a diagnosis.

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



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