

[Astrocytoma - Childhood - Risk Factors](#) [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 03/2016

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about the factors that increase the chance of developing astrocytoma. To see other pages, use the menu.

A risk factor is anything that increases a person's chance of developing a tumor. Although risk factors often influence the development of a tumor, most do not directly cause a tumor. Some people with several risk factors never develop a tumor, while others with no known risk factors do.

Doctors and researchers don't know what causes most childhood tumors. There is some evidence that genetics may play a role in a small percentage of children with cerebral astrocytoma. The following factors may increase a child's risk of developing astrocytoma:

- **Neurofibromatosis.** Neurofibromatosis is an inherited disorder that causes a type of noncancerous tumor called a neurofibroma. Neurofibromatosis is also called Recklinghausen's disease or von Recklinghausen's disease. Learn more about [neurofibromatosis type 1](#) [3] and [neurofibromatosis type 2](#) [4].
- **Other genetic conditions.** Less commonly, the following [genetic conditions](#) [5] are associated with a higher risk of developing a CNS tumor:
 - Li-Fraumeni syndrome

- Tuberos sclerosi
- Nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome
- Turcot syndrome

The [next section in this guide is Symptoms and Signs](#) [6]. It explains what body changes or medical problems this disease can cause. Or, use the menu to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

- [1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/astrocytoma-childhood/risk-factors>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19450>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19451>
- [5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24905>
- [6] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18492>