Medulloblastoma - Childhood - Risk Factors [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [2], 08/2015

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

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 are gradually understanding what causes most childhood tumors, including medulloblastoma. The following factors are linked with a higher risk of medulloblastoma:

- **Gender.** Medulloblastoma is more common in boys than in girls.
- **Age.** Medulloblastoma occurs most often in the first 8 years of life, with about half occurring in children younger than 6 years old.
- **Genetics.** In rare situations, children with nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome [3] (NBCCS), a hereditary condition also known as Gorlin syndrome, have an increased risk of developing medulloblastoma. People with NBCCS are more likely to develop various tumors.

The next section in this guide is Symptoms and Signs [4] *and it explains what body changes or medical problems this disease can cause. Or, use the menu on the side of your screen to choose another section to continue reading this guide.*

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/medulloblastoma-childhood/risk-factors
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/19452
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/19241