Pituitary Gland Tumor - Risk Factors [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [2], 09/2013

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about what factors increase the chance of a pituitary gland tumor. 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. However, knowing your risk factors and talking about them with your doctor may help you make more informed lifestyle and health care choices.

There is no evidence that environmental factors play a role in the development of a pituitary gland tumor. The only known risk factors are the three hereditary syndromes explained below. Genetic testing [3] is available for these conditions.

Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 (MEN1) [4]**.** Families with MEN1 have an increased risk of pituitary gland tumors.

Carney complex [5]**.** This is another genetic condition that can increase the risk of a pituitary gland tumor.

Familial acromegaly. Acromegaly is a condition in adults that is caused by too much growth hormone. Familial acromegaly can occur as part of MEN (see above) or alone within a family.

Choose ?Next? (below, right) to continue reading this guide to learn about what symptoms a pituitary gland tumor can cause. To continue reading this guide, use the menu on the side of your screen to select another section.

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/pituitary-gland-tumor/risk-factors
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/24895
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/19366
[5] http://www.cancer.net/node/18659