

[Pituitary Gland Tumor - Latest Research](#) [1]

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

ON THIS PAGE: You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about pituitary gland tumors and how to treat them. To see other pages, use the menu.

Doctors are working to learn more about pituitary gland tumors, ways to prevent them, how to best treat them, and how to provide the best care to people diagnosed with them. The following areas of research may include new options for patients through clinical trials. Always talk with your doctor about the diagnostic and treatment options best for you.

- **Risk factors and genetics.** Researchers are looking into how and why pituitary gland tumors develop, as well as the genetics of pituitary gland tumors in the hope of finding new methods of treatment.
- **Surgical advances.** Better methods of surgery to remove pituitary gland tumors are being studied. Even large tumors and tumors that have grown into nearby structures can now be removed with surgery. However, pituitary gland tumors that have grown into the cavernous sinus cannot usually be removed completely with surgery. They may need further treatment, such as medications or radiation therapy; research on these methods is ongoing.
- **Targeted therapy.** [Targeted therapy](#) [3] is a treatment that targets the specific genes, proteins, or the tissue environment that contributes to a tumor growth and survival. This type of treatment blocks the growth and spread of tumor cells while limiting damage to healthy cells. For pituitary gland tumors, one targeted therapy researchers are exploring

as a treatment is lapatinib (Tykerb).

- **Radiation therapy.** Researchers are also looking at [proton therapy](#) [4] as a treatment option. Proton therapy, also called proton beam therapy, is a type of external-beam radiation therapy that uses protons rather than x-rays. At high energy, protons can destroy tumor cells.
- **Palliative care.** Clinical trials are underway to find better ways of reducing symptoms and side effects of current pituitary gland tumor treatments to improve patients' comfort and quality of life.

Looking for More about the Latest Research?

If you would like additional information about the latest areas of research regarding pituitary gland tumors, explore this related item that takes you outside of this guide:

- To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your doctor or [search online clinical trial databases](#) [5] now.
- Visit the website of the [Conquer Cancer Foundation](#) [6] to find out how to help support research for every cancer type. Please note this link takes you to a separate ASCO website.

The [next section in this guide is Coping with Treatment](#). [7] It offers some guidance in how to cope with the physical, emotional, and social changes that cancer and its treatment can bring. Or, use the menu to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/pituitary-gland-tumor/latest-research>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24729>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24521>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24878>

[6] <http://www.conquercancerfoundation.org/research-results>

[7] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19544>