NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

Neurofibromatosis (NF) is a genetic disorder caused by mutations in the NF1, NF2 or SMARCB1 genes which lead to tumor growth on nerves throughout the body. Although the tumors are usually benign, they still require chemotherapy to shrink and may become cancerous. Surgery is often attempted as treatment, however tumor placement on sensitive areas such as spinal cord and optic nerve make this option more difficult.

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Types of neurofibromatosis include: NF1, NF2 and Schwannomatosis (1)

Symptoms of NF1: brown spots on the skin, Lisch nodules, abnormal bone development, and freckles in the armpit/groin (3)

Children have a 50% chance of inheritance if a parent has the disease (2)

Number of Americans that have been diagnosed with a form of neurofibromatosis (3)

100,000

Symptoms of NF2: problems with ears (hearing ringing and hearing loss), balance issues, vision loss, schwannomas (4)

Number of people with NF1 that are at risk for developing cancer (5)

7%

50% of cases have resulted from spontaneous gene mutation with no history (8)

The disease was first described by Dr. Friedrich von Recklinghausen in 1882 (6)

Symptoms of Schwannomatosis: Schwannomas and chronic pain (4)

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