

## Referral Support Service

### Paediatrics

#### PA01

#### Suspected brain tumour in Children

#### When to worry?

##### General Points

- Brain tumours are the second commonest cancer in childhood (after leukaemia), with 500 new cases diagnosed a year in the UK.
- Presenting symptoms vary depending on the location of tumour and the age of the child.
- 60% of survivors of childhood tumours have a residual neurological deficit (including blindness, hemiplegia and developmental impairment)
- Improve your confidence: [eLearning site for GPs](#): this well-designed e-learning resource has been jointly developed by the RCGP and RCPCH for improving recognition of symptoms and involves some case examples

#### Symptoms to look out for in the various age groups (2 or more present- URGENT REFERRAL)

Symptoms include:

Under 5/ Preschool	5 – 11 Children	12 – 18/ Young People
Persistent / recurrent vomiting	Persistent / recurrent headache	Persistent / recurrent headache
Balance / co-ordination / walking problems	Persistent / recurrent vomiting	Persistent / recurrent vomiting
Abnormal eye movements	Balance / co-ordination / walking problems	Balance / co-ordination / walking problems
Behaviour change, particularly lethargy	Abnormal eye movements	Abnormal eye movements
Fits or seizures (not with a fever)	Blurred or double vision	Blurred or double vision
Abnormal head position such as wry neck, head tilt or stiff neck	Behaviour change	Behaviour change
	Fits or seizures	Fits or seizures
	Abnormal head position such as wry neck, head tilt or stiff neck	Delayed or arrested puberty, slow growth

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## Referral Information

### Indications for referral

- Follow the headsmart guide to age-sensitive symptoms.
- Consider admission/ same day assessment for progressive symptoms via on-call Paediatric team.
- Urgent Referral to paediatrics for one or at most two symptoms

### Patient information leaflets/ PDAs

[Head smart](#) : national charitable campaign to improve detection of brain tumours in childhood. Patient information and GP resources.

### References

[http://www.headsmart.org.uk/admin/uploads/symptoms-card-final-v4\\_-printready.pdf](http://www.headsmart.org.uk/admin/uploads/symptoms-card-final-v4_-printready.pdf)

RCGP elearning module: [Brain Tumours in Children](#)