



Neurofibromatosis

The neurofibromatoses are a group of three genetically distinct but related disorders of the nervous system that cause tumors to grow around the nerves. Tumors begin in the cells that make up the myelin sheath, a thin membrane that envelops and protects nerve fibers, and often spread into adjacent areas. The type of tumor that develops depends on its location in the body and the kind of cells involved. The most common tumors are neurofibromas, which develop in the tissue surrounding peripheral nerves. Most tumors are non-cancerous, although occasionally they become cancerous over time.

An estimated 100,000 Americans have a neurofibromatosis (the singular form of neurofibromatoses) disorder, which occurs in both sexes and in all races and ethnic groups. Scientists have classified the disorders as **neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1)**, **neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2)**, and a type that was once considered to be a variation of NF2 but is now called **schwannomatosis**.

Neurofibromas frequently grow on spinal nerve roots. If they compress the spinal cord, they can cause paralysis or disturbances in sensation in different parts of the body, depending on what part of the spinal cord is compressed.

Source: NINDS: Neurofibromatosis Info Page, Merck Manual

Websites

NINDS: Neurofibromatosis Information Page

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Neurofibromatosis-Information-Page>

NINDS: Neurofibromatosis Fact Sheet

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Neurofibromatosis-Fact-Sheet>

NINDS: Neurofibromatosis booklet

<https://catalog.ninds.nih.gov/pubstatic//11-2126/11-2126.pdf>

MedlinePlus: Neurofibromatosis

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/neurofibromatosis.html>

Merck Manual Consumer Manual: Neurofibromatosis Quick Facts

<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/quick-facts-children-s-health-issues/neurocutaneous-syndromes-in-children/neurofibromatosis?query=neurofibromatosis>

Children’s Tumor Foundation: Ending Neurofibromatosis Through Research

<http://www.ctf.org/>

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Neurofibromatosis Network

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Neurofibromatosis Network is a national organization advocating for federal funding for NF research and the development of local NF organizations.

eMedicine: Neurofibromatosis, Type 1

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1177266-overview>

eMedicine: Neurofibromatosis, Type 2

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1178283-overview>

KidsHealth: Neurofibromatosis

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/system/ill/nf.html>

Neurofibromatosis, Inc. Support Community

<http://www.inspire.com/groups/neurofibromatosis-inc/>

Thriving with Neurofibromatosis

www.thrivingwithnf.com

Wikipedia: Neurofibromatosis

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neurofibromatosis>

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