

Emergency guide – brain tumours

This is a guide to the tumour-related signs and symptoms that your child may experience that require immediate action. Please remember this is only a guide. Other signs and symptoms not mentioned here should be discussed with your local team or The Royal Marsden advice lines.

Brain tumour type.....

Signs and symptoms	Action/contacts
<p>Raised intracranial pressure There is a risk for all children/young people receiving treatment for a brain tumour, of developing increased pressure within the brain. Symptoms include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sudden onset or severe headaches - Becoming disorientated, excessively tired or less alert/responsive - Persistent headaches occurring on most days, usually accompanied by vomiting and often waking up at night or occurring when they first wake up. <p>Seizures/major convulsive seizures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crying out, stiffening and falling to the ground. Their arms and legs may jerk and they may go blue in the face. <p>If a convulsive seizure lasts for more than 5 minutes</p> <p>Or, if one seizure follows another without them recovering in between</p> <p>Or if they hurt themselves during a fall.</p>	<p>Urgent medical attention.</p> <p>Attend shared care hospital or your nearest Accident and Emergency department (A&E).</p> <p>Protect your child from injury. Remove objects that may cause harm. Cushion their head.</p> <p>Position on their side in the recovery position as soon as seizure passes.</p> <p>Call an ambulance (999) and get immediate help.</p> <p>Do not try to stop the movements. Talk to your child gently and guide them away from danger.</p>



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<p>Focal seizures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jerking movements, odd sensations, feeling afraid or anxious, or dazed and confused - Visual changes such as double vision - Persistent headache (in the absence of any additional signs of raised intracranial pressure) - Changes in mobility, such as falling over, imbalance - Any new weakness in the arms or legs - Any change in continence (control of urine and faeces) - Personality changes - Changes in speech. 	<p>Inform your CNS at The Royal Marsden or call the 24 hour advice line</p>
<p>Temperature/unwell</p> <p>This is also called sepsis and can be life threatening. It can lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cold hands and feet - Mottled skin - Shivering. <p>Please be aware of the non-verbal signs/behaviour such as sleepiness and lethargy or you may feel your child is just 'not right'. It is very important you get your child assessed early.</p> <p>Sepsis can occur even without a fever being present – please seek review if concerned.</p>	<p>Contact your local hospital.</p> <p>If your child is or could be neutropenic (Neutrophil cells less than 0.5), treat this as an emergency and attend your shared care hospital or nearest Emergency department.</p> <p>Or call your local hospital or The Royal Marsden advice line for immediate advice.</p> <p>Avoid giving paracetamol.</p>

Contact details

Paediatric 24 hour telephone advice line: 0208 915 6248

If your child is under the **Adult** team only, they should contact

The Royal Marsden Macmillan Hotline: 020 8915 6899
(available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

