Acoustic Neuroma

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/acousticneuroma.html

Also called: Acoustic neurilemmoma, Acoustic neurinoma, Auditory tumor, Vestibular schwannoma

Acoustic neuroma is a non-cancerous tumor that develops on the nerve that connects the ear to the brain. The tumor usually grows slowly. As it grows, it presses against the hearing and balance nerves. At first, you may have no symptoms or mild symptoms. They can include

- Loss of hearing on one side
- Ringing in ears
- Dizziness and balance problems

Acoustic neuroma can be difficult to diagnose, because the symptoms are similar to those of middle ear problems. Ear exams, hearing tests and scans can show if you have it.

If the tumor stays small, you may only need to have it checked regularly. If you do need treatment, surgery and radiation are options. If the tumors affect both hearing nerves, it is often because of a genetic disorder called neurofibromatosis. The tumor can also eventually cause numbness or paralysis of the face. If it grows large enough, it can press against the brain, becoming life-threatening.

Start Here
- Acoustic Neuroma [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/acoustic-neuroma/DS00803/DSECTION=all&METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Vestibular Schwannoma (Acoustic Neuroma) and Neurofibromatosis [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/Pages/acoustic_neuroma.aspx] NIH (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)

Overviews

Diagnosis/Symptoms
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.radiologyinfo.org/sp/info.cfm?pg=headct]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.radiologyinfo.org/sp/info.cfm?pg=headmr]

Treatment
Gamma-Knife Radiosurgery [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/gamma-knife-radiosurgery/MY00206/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Related Issues
- Schwannomatosis [http://www.ctf.org/Learn-About-NF/Schwannomatosis.html] (Children's Tumor Foundation)

Health Check Tools
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/spanish/pages/10w_sp.aspx]

Videos

Anatomy/Physiology

Clinical Trials

Journal Articles
References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

Dictionaries/Glossaries

Directories
Acoustic Neuroma: MedlinePlus

(International Radiosurgery Support Association)

- Directory of Organizations (Deafness and Communication Disorders) [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/directory/]  NIH
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/]

**Organizations**

- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/]  NIH

**Patient Handouts**

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000778.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003786.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003791.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000131.htm]

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The primary NIH organization for research on Acoustic Neuroma is the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/]

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