

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) [<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) [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/Pages/acoustic_neuroma.aspx] [NIH](#) (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)

Overviews

- [What Is Acoustic Neuroma](http://www.anausa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=114&Itemid=112) [http://www.anausa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=114&Itemid=112] (Acoustic Neuroma Association)

Diagnosis/Symptoms

- [Acoustic Neuroma: Questions to Discuss with Your Doctor](http://www.health.harvard.edu/fhg/doctor/acousticNeuroma.shtml) [<http://www.health.harvard.edu/fhg/doctor/acousticNeuroma.shtml>] (Harvard Medical School)
- [CT -- Head](http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=headct) [<http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=headct>]  (American College of Radiology, Radiological Society of North America)
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.radiologyinfo.org/sp/info.cfm?pg=headct>]
- [Identifying the Tumor](http://www.anausa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116&Itemid=114) [http://www.anausa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116&Itemid=114] (Acoustic Neuroma Association)
- [MRI of the Head](http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=headmr) [<http://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=headmr>]  (American College of Radiology, Radiological Society of North America)
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.radiologyinfo.org/sp/info.cfm?pg=headmr>]
- [Symptoms of Acoustic Neuroma](http://www.anausa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=115&Itemid=113) [http://www.anausa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=115&Itemid=113] (Acoustic Neuroma Association)

Treatment

- Acoustic Neuroma [http://www.irsa.org/acoustic_neuroma.html] (International Radiosurgery Support Association)
- Gamma-Knife Radiosurgery [<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/gamma-knife-radiosurgery/MY00206/METHOD=print>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Post Treatment of Acoustic Neuroma [http://www.anausa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=119&Itemid=117] (Acoustic Neuroma Association)

Related Issues

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

Health Check Tools

- Ten Ways to Recognize Hearing Loss [<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/pages/10ways.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
Also available in Spanish [http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/spanish/pages/10w_sp.aspx]

Videos

- Acoustic Neuroma Procedure [<http://www.orlive.com/prohealthcare/videos/prohealth-care-to-webcast-educational-brain-surgery-program?view=displayPageNLM>] (OR-Live) - Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Waukesha, WI, 1/31/2007
- Closure of Dural Defects after Tumor Resection: Effective Use of Sealants and Collagen Duraplasty [<http://orlive.com/covidien/duraseal1?view=displayPageNLM>] (OR-Live) - Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, 4/20/2011
- Stereotactic Radiation Therapy for Brain Tumors [<http://www.orlive.com/hartfordhospital/videos/trilogy-stereotactic-radiation-therapy-for-brain-tumors1?view=displayPageNLM>] (OR-Live) - Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT, 6/21/2007

Anatomy/Physiology

- Atlas of Human Body: Ear [<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/patient-education-materials/atlas-of-human-body/ear.shtml>] (American Medical Association)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Neuroma, Acoustic [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Neuroma,+Acoustic%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

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

- Article: Vestibular schwannoma surgical volume and short-term outcomes in Maryland. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22710510?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Short-term clinico-radiographic response to super-selective intra-arterial cerebral infusion of Bevacizumab... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22681725?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy of vestibular schwannomas accelerates hearing loss. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22560549?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Acoustic Neuroma -- see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=neuroma,acoustic\[majr\]+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=neuroma,acoustic[majr]+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

Dictionaries/Glossaries

- Acoustic Neuroma Keywords [<http://www.anausa.org/index.php/acoustic-neuroma-keywords/Glossary-1/>] (Acoustic Neuroma Association)
- NIDCD Glossary [<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/glossary/Pages/glossary.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)

Directories

- Centers of Excellence in Radiosurgery [<http://www.irsa.org/CentersOfExcellence/CentersofExcellenceMenu.html>]

(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)

Organizations

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

Patient Handouts

- Acoustic neuroma [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000778.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000778.htm>]
- Cranial CT scan [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003786.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003786.htm>]
- Head MRI [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003791.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003791.htm>]
- Stereotactic radiosurgery - discharge [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000131.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000131.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Acoustic neuroma [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000778.htm>]
- Cranial CT scan [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003786.htm>]
- Head MRI [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003791.htm>]
- Stereotactic radiosurgery - discharge [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000131.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Neurofibromatosis [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/neurofibromatosis.html>]
- Brain and Nerves [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/brainandnerves.html>]
- Ear, Nose and Throat [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/earnoseandthroat.html>]

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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