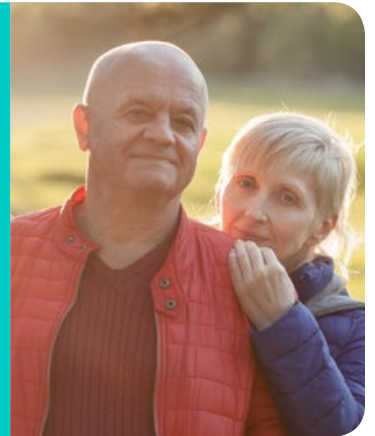


# Brain Cancer – Gliomas

## Astrocytomas and glioblastomas



This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Brain Cancer – Gliomas. These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit [NCCN.org/patients](http://NCCN.org/patients) or, to order printed copies, visit [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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### What are gliomas?



They are cancers of glial cells. Glial cells support nerve cells in the brain and spine.	<a href="#">10</a>
Astrocytomas and glioblastomas derive from glial cells called astrocytes.	<a href="#">14</a>

### What are the treatment options for pilocytic astrocytomas?

These grade I gliomas are often cured with surgery.	<a href="#">32</a>
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### What are the treatment options for diffuse astrocytomas?

Surgery is often used to confirm the presence of and to treat grade II astrocytomas. MRI is often needed to assess how much of the cancer was removed.	<a href="#">32</a>
More treatment is often received after surgery. Only astrocytomas that were fully removed or those with stable or no symptoms may be observed rather than treated. If more treatment is needed, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or both may be received.	<a href="#">33</a>
MRI scans are needed on a regular basis to track treatment results.	<a href="#">34</a>
If a grade II astrocytoma returns, surgery may be an option. After surgery or instead of, you may receive radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or both if you weren't treated with radiation before. If you had radiation before, chemotherapy should follow surgery or may be the sole treatment if surgery isn't an option.	<a href="#">34</a>



## What are the treatment options for anaplastic astrocytomas?

Surgery is often used to confirm the presence of and to treat grade III astrocytomas. If the tumor is fully removed, chemotherapy wafers may be placed into your brain at the end of surgery. MRI is often needed to assess how much of the cancer was removed.	<a href="#">36</a>
More treatment is often received after surgery. If healthy enough, you may be treated with radiation, radiation and chemotherapy, or only chemotherapy. If your health is limited, you may receive a short or normal course of radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or supportive care.	<a href="#">36</a>
MRI scans are needed on a regular basis to track treatment results.	<a href="#">38</a>
If a grade III astrocytoma returns, treatment options depend on where the cancer is and its extent. Surgery may be an option followed by chemotherapy, radiation, or supportive care. When surgical treatment isn't an option, other options include chemotherapy, surgery for symptoms, and supportive care.	<a href="#">38</a>

## What are the treatment options for glioblastomas and gliosarcomas?

Surgery is often used to confirm the presence of and to treat grade IV astrocytomas. If the tumor is fully removed, chemotherapy wafers may be placed into your brain at the end of surgery. MRI is often needed to assess how much of the cancer was removed.	<a href="#">40</a>
Treatment after surgery depends on your health, age, and cell features. Options may include radiation, chemotherapy, alternating electric field therapy, or supportive care.	<a href="#">42</a>
MRI scans are needed on a regular basis to track treatment results.	<a href="#">44</a>
If a grade IV astrocytoma returns, treatment options depend on where the cancer is and its extent. Surgery may be an option followed by chemotherapy, radiation, alternating electric field therapy, or supportive care. When surgical treatment isn't an option, other options include chemotherapy, surgery for symptoms, alternating electric field therapy, and supportive care.	<a href="#">44</a>

## How do you decide between options?

Ask your doctors many questions. Also, you could get a second opinion, attend support groups, and compare pros and cons.	<a href="#">69</a>
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