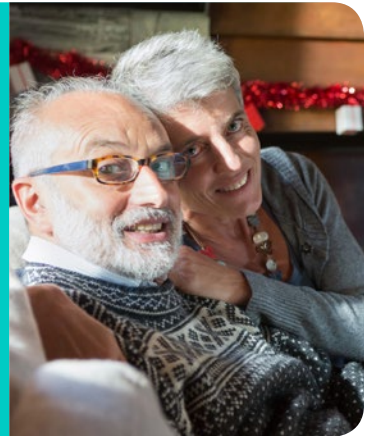


Brain Cancer – Gliomas

Ependymomas



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 or, to order printed copies, visit Amazon.com.

NCCN Guidelines
for Patients®
Page Number



What are gliomas?

They are cancers of glial cells. Glial cells support nerve cells in the brain and spine.	10
Ependymomas derive from ependymal cells.	14

What are the treatment options for subependymoma?

These grade I ependymomas can be cured with surgery.	59
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What are the treatment options for other ependymomas?

Surgery is often used to confirm the presence of and to treat ependymomas. After surgery, brain and spine MRI and a lumbar puncture is often needed.	60
More treatment is often received after surgery. If all the cancer was removed you may be observed rather than treated. Otherwise, an option is radiation therapy if the cancer hasn't spread to other sites. Cancer that has spread may be treated with craniospinal radiation therapy.	62
MRI of your brain, spine, or both are needed on a regular basis to track treatment results.	64
If an ependymoma returns, surgery may be an option. After surgery or instead of, you may receive radiation therapy if not received before or in some cases, stereotactic radiosurgery.	64



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.

69

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