

The Prevalence of Cognitive and Behavioural sequelae of adults with a Brain Tumour

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ABSTRACT

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The Prevalence of Cognitive and Behavioural sequelae of adults with a Brain Tumour

Cognitive and behavioural changes have been noted in patients diagnosed with a brain tumour (BT). Both patients and family members report that dealing with such changes can prove to be overwhelming and distressing, yet little is known about the extent of these impairments and importantly, suitable management approaches.

This research project investigated the prevalence of cognitive and behavioural sequelae in patients with a BT diagnosis and whom have undergone associated treatments. A sample of primary BT patients and their family members from Liverpool and Royal North Shore Hospitals were administered validated questionnaires to assess cognitive, emotional and behavioural symptoms. Results found that both BT patients and their carers reported impairment in a number of areas including disinhibition, verbal aggression, executive impairments, apathy, perseveration, mood and disturbance.

Concurrently, a review of existing web-based and hardcopy patient information resources confirmed the lack of materials addressing these issues.

Drawing on the review and prevalence study, a new patient/family information resource (in the form of fact sheets) has been developed. The sheets cover a range of different cognitive and behavioural changes including those listed above. Each sheet is formatted to describe the symptoms, report the frequency of impairment, give a case study example, provide management strategies as well as links to other resources. This initiative provides an important new resource for services, patients and families alike.