

# Understanding Brain Cancer– Oligodendroglioma

(SE) Chris Ryan February 16, 2011



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The rarest form of brain tumor is Oligodendrogliomas. This type of brain tumor develops from oligodendroglial cells. These cells are the special brain cells that form from myelin. Myelin is the substance that covers fibers of the nerve and permits them to transmit the electrical impulses.

The Oligodendrogliomas can also be classified as glial tumors as well as gliomas. The Oligodendrogliomas can occur in both the adults as well as children. Among the adults Oligodendrogliomas can take place between ages 25 to 50 years. Among the children the chances of occurrence of Oligodendrogliomas is 1.1 percent of all the tumors that are intracranial.

In approximately the eighty percent of the cases the Oligodendrogliomas usually tends to develop in the part of the brain which is known as the cerebral hemisphere. The cerebral hemisphere is the upper part of the brain which monitors the thought speech as well as voluntary movement and so on. The Oligodendrogliomas can also occur in the stem of the brain and spinal cord. The tumor of Oligodendrogliomas can also consist of cellular elements that are mixed. This means that Oligodendrogliomas can also contain astrocytes and neurons apart from Oligodendrocytes. The Oligodendrocytes tend to grow and divide faster than other cell types.

There is a lot of confusion regarding the best ways to describe these tumors. Most of the times they tend to be defined as indolent which also means slow in growing. They do not fit in the compartmentalized categories of benign and malignant. The tumors often vary in terms of their malignancy or grade and the outlook or the prognosis which is often connected to the grade. In general the natural history of the grades cannot be predicted as the grade tends to change itself over the time. This true especially amongst the adult patients.

The Oligodendrogliomas has very long and varied pre – diagnostic and post – treatment history. Similar to gliomas the oligodendrogliomas tend to evolve into an extremely malignant tumor. The occurrence of oligodendroglioma cannot be predicted. The growths of the tumor can take couple of weeks or many years. Eventually the tumors most of the times tend to be quick growing and invasive. The process of change from non- malignant to malignant can be very rapid. The entire process can take place in stages ranging from low grade to high grade and anaplastic which means extremely malignant.

It is also important to understand the ways of growth of oligodendroglioma tumor.

About [www.cancer.im](http://www.cancer.im)

When an individual is diagnosed with cancer, the feeling of panic is overwhelming. As loved ones hear the news, they too are overwhelmed and often do not know what to do. Cancer.im provides a common sense approach to managing this chaos and uncertainty. The goal is to increase the patient's quality of life and enable them to take back control.

Cancer.im is a social network for cancer patients, advocates, and volunteers. Members can connect to other people affected by cancer, organize the personal and professional resources available to them, research the qualitative and quantitative aspects of cancer, and create a customized strategy for beating or preventing the disease.

Cancer.im was founded by people with firsthand experience with cancer. Cancer.im continues to grow by the individuals who continually donate their time, resources, and experience to helping cancer patients navigate the

obstacles they face. Our driving principles are based on clinical data which have shown that:

Cancer patients who have an active support network, outlive cancer patients who do not

Increasing a Cancer Patient's Quality of Life, directly lowers the incidence of morbidity

Together, we believe that the Cancer.im social network can change the way in which patients view and manage their disease.

Cancer.im is guided by the following principles which collectively make up our mission.

Cancer is a generic term used to describe a unique disease. We want to empower every cancer patient with the information and resources they need to create a customized cancer strategy as unique as they are.

Cancer experiences are often characterized by feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. We want to turn cancer patients from hopeless to hopeful, and cancer advocates from helpless to helpful.

Every individual who has been through an experience with cancer has unique wisdom that others can benefit from. We want to harvest and organize this wisdom and make it available to the world.

Cancer patients who have an active support network outlive cancer patient who do not. We want to empower every cancer patient, regardless of their ability to pay, with the ability of organizing and managing their own support network and outlive this disease.

Increasing a cancer patient's quality of life directly lowers the incidence of morbidity. We want to organize and empower those who surround a patient with the knowledge and ability to directly affect that patient's quality of life for the better by alleviating the daily burden associated with cancer.

With these principles always in mind, and the continual dedication of our online community, we can change the way the world views and manages cancer!