

neurofibromatosis **NF?**

BASICS

NF is a genetic disorder that affects one in 3,000 births. It can cause tumors to grow on nerves anywhere in the body, including the brain and spinal cord. NF can lead to blindness, deafness, chronic pain, disfigurement, learning disabilities, bone defects or abnormalities, cardiovascular problems, cancer and a wide range of other complications.

- There are three types of NF: NF1, NF2, and Schwannomatosis.
- Half the cases of NF arise in families that have no history of the disorder; the other half get it from a parent. However, in Schwannomatosis the pass down rate is about 10 percent with the rest being spontaneous mutations.

NF 1

- an alteration in the Chromosome 17 that affects the tumor suppressor gene.
- 1 in 3,000 is the incidence rate.
- The most common characterization/marker of NF 1 is a person having more than six café'-au-lait spots (birthmarks) on their body.

The other five markers are:

- Two or more neurofibromas of any type or one plexiform neurofibroma
- Multiple freckles in arm pit or groin
- Skeletal deformity
- Optic glioma
- Two or more Lisch nodules in the iris of the eye
- A parent having NF.

NF 2

- a glitch on a gene in the 22nd chromosome
- 1 in 25,000 incidence rate
- The most common symptom of NF2 is the growth of vestibular schwannomas, or tumors that form on the auditory nerve in the brain
- The most common symptom is a loss of hearing which typically happens in early adulthood. Other manifestations/markers include Schwannomas, meningiomas, neurofibromas and cataracts.

SCHWANNOMATOSIS

- Much less is known about Schwannomatosis.
- Only 10 percent of the cases appear to be passed down genetically; the other 90 percent are spontaneous. The biggest thing with Schwannomatosis is the formation of schwannomas on the nerves that grow and cause debilitating pain.

Is NF Cancer? No, however, people with NF have a higher likelihood of getting cancer because they are more likely to grow more tumors. . .and some tumors become malignant.