Neurofibromatosis, or NF, is an under-recognized genetic disorder that can cause tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. NF has three distinct forms, NF1, NF2, and schwannomatosis.

Neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2) is the second most common type of NF, and affects approximately 1 in every 25,000 people.

NF2 is caused by mutations in genes located on chromosome 22.

The signs and symptoms of NF2 usually develop during the late teen or early adulthood years, although around 10% of people with NF2 develop symptoms in late childhood.

NF2 is characterized by the development of benign tumors called vestibular schwannomas on the eighth cranial nerve, which is the nerve that carries sound and balance information to the brain.

Some people with NF2 develop other tumors involving the cells and membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord called meningiomas and ependymomas.

NF2 can also cause the development of juvenile cataracts, which may compromise vision.

The most common symptoms of NF2 include ringing in the ears (tinnitus), hearing loss, and balance problems.

NF2 affects all populations regardless of ethnicity or gender.

Roughly half of all cases arise in families with no history of the disorder.

There is no cure for NF2 yet, but promising advancements in NF2 research are underway.

For more information on NF2 please visit ctf.org/nf2

Help end NF by joining the confidential NF Registry. To learn more and participate, please visit www.nfregistry.org