

BRAIN TUMOR CENTER

Metastasis

What is a brain Metastasis?

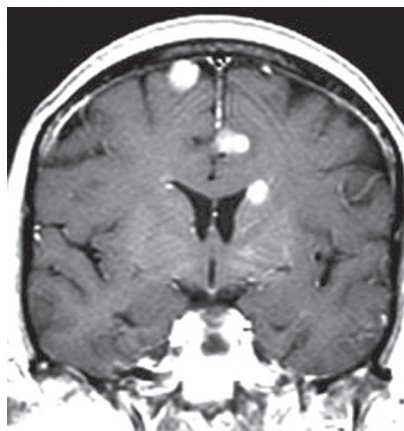
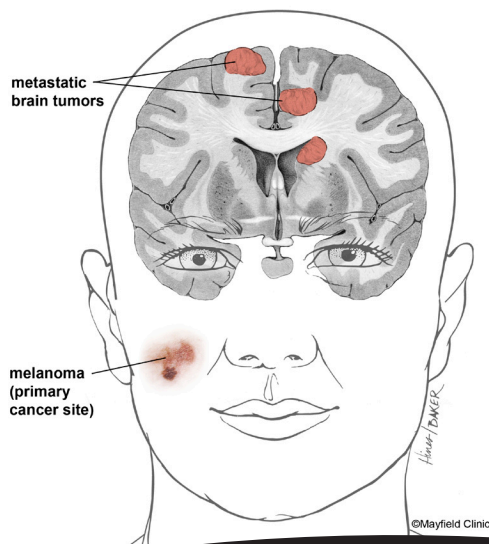
- Metastatic brain tumors begin as cancer in another part of the body and spread to the brain via blood or tissue. There can be one or multiple metastatic lesions.
- Most common primary origin, or area where the cancer originated, is lung, breast, skin (melanoma), kidney and colon but the tumors can come from anywhere. If primary cancer cannot be found, it is called an "unknown" primary.
- A diagnostic work-up (x-ray, CT) may be done to look for the primary cancer site.

What are the symptoms?

- Symptoms are related to the location of the brain in which they occur and include headaches, numbness, weakness, disorientation, imbalance, and seizures.

What are the treatment options?

- **Biopsy** – If there is a suspicious site for primary cancer, that site may be biopsied first to help direct treatment. If there is a prior history of cancer, a biopsy may not be necessary. If the primary cancer cannot be identified, then a brain biopsy or surgery to remove the tumor may be done to determine the diagnosis.
- **Surgery** – Typically recommended for patients with 1 or 2 brain lesions, in good health, with primary cancer that is treatable. Radiation seeds may be placed at the time of surgery to help prevent tumor recurrence.
- **Radiation** – Patients with few, smaller lesions (< 3 cm) can be treated with a single treatment (radiosurgery). Patients with multiple lesions are typically treated with whole brain radiation.
- **Chemotherapy** – Treats the primary cancer as well as the metastatic lesions.



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