

SURGERY

Neurosurgery is surgery performed on the brain or spinal cord. For brain tumours, neurosurgery can be performed to remove all or part of the tumour, known as a craniotomy, diagnose your tumour type, known as a biopsy or put in a device, called a shunt, to reduce the build-up of the cerebrospinal fluid.

It's important to know that neurosurgery is not always possible. If the brain tumour is too close to an important part of your brain, surgery may be too risky.

Most patients will have an operation to confirm the diagnosis, relieve pressure and to try and remove as much of the tumour as possible. However, if the tumour is deep in the brain a biopsy only may be carried out to confirm the diagnosis. This is to try and avoid further damage to the brain. If the neurosurgeon can remove all or most of the tumour this may be the only treatment needed and observation with brain scans will be arranged.