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[Neurologia](#). 2008 May;23(4):215-9.**[Initial signs and symptoms of brain tumors in children].**

[Article in Spanish]

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**Abstract**

**INTRODUCTION:** This is a study of the presenting features of **brain tumors** in **children**, their localization and histology which is aimed at describing the most frequent **symptoms** at the beginning and at the moment of diagnosis and minimize the time needed to reach a diagnosis.

**METHODS:** Retrospective and descriptive study. Data were collected from the medical records of the patients (aged: 0-16) operated on for a **brain** tumor in our Department from 1999 to 2004. All analyses were conducted with the SPSS 11.0.

**RESULTS:** In our study, the prevalence of **brain tumors** was higher in males (58%) older than five years. Of these, 52% were supratentorial and the most frequent one was astrocytome. Median time to diagnosis was 30 days. A total of 75% were diagnosed during the first 60 days of the onset of the **symptoms**. We found a statistically significant relationship between age and mean time to diagnosis. The most frequent **initial** symptom was increased head circumference and nausea/vomiting in **children** younger than 2 years, vomiting and headache in **children** aged 2-5, and headache in older than 5 years. In all groups, 83% of headache was accompanied by vomiting.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Mean time to diagnosis in our study is similar to other series. Presenting features vary based on age and they are not pathognomonic of the **brain tumors**. This hinders early diagnosis. In order to make an early diagnosis, it is important to pay attention to the associated **symptoms** and chronology.

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