



Gray Matters

May is Brain Tumor Awareness Month. Brain Tumor Awareness is represented by the color Gray. Among children under age 20, brain tumors are the most common form of solid tumor. Brain Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths, following leukemia. There are over 600,000 people in the US living with a primary brain tumor and over 28,000 of these cases are among children under the age of 20. There are 130 different types of brain tumors, making diagnosis and treatment very difficult. **BE AWARE**

[Source: National Brain Tumor Society](http://www.nationalbraintumor.org)



What is DIPG?

Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma

(dih-FYOOS in-TRIN-sik PON-teen glee-OH-muh)

A Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma is a tumor located in the pons (middle) of the brain stem. The brain stem is the bottom most portion of the brain, connecting the cerebrum with the spinal cord. The majority of brain stem tumors occur in the pons (middle brain stem), are diffusely infiltrating (they grow amidst the nerves), and therefore are not able to be surgically removed. Glioma is a general name for any tumor that arises from the supportive tissue called glia, which help keep the neurons ("thinking cells") in place and functioning well. The brain stem contains all of the "wires" converging from the brain to the spinal cord as well as important structures involved in eye movements, face and throat muscle control and sensation.

Source: The American Brain Tumor Association

Contact Get Well Gabby

Email: info@getwellgabby.org

www.getwellgabby.org

www.facebook.com/getwellgabby



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Get Well Gabby Foundation Yard Sale!](#)
Now until June 2, 2012
6318 West 54th Street
Parma, Ohio 44129
[Event Flier](#)
- [Get Well Gabby Day With The Reading Phillies](#)
Sunday, June 10, 2012
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
FirstEnergy Stadium
Reading, Pennsylvania
- [Get Well Gabby Day With The Wilmington Blue Rocks](#)
Sunday, July 29, 2012
10:35 am to 1:35 pm
Frawley Stadium
[Event Flier](#)
- [Croppin' Out Childhood Cancer](#)
Saturday, August 4, 2012
9:00 am to 9:00 pm
National Christian Conference Center
- [2012 Delaware's "Fight For The Gold Night" With The Wilmington Blue Rocks](#)
Thursday, August 30, 2012
3:35 pm to 6:35 pm
Frawley Stadium
[Event Flier](#)

Brain Tumor Facts

- There are over 600,000 people in the US living with a primary brain tumor and over 28,000 of these cases are among children under the age of 20.
- Because brain tumors are located at the control center for thought, emotion and movement, their effects on an individual's physical and cognitive abilities can be devastating.
- Brain tumors in children are different from those in adults and are often treated differently. Although over 72% percent of children with brain tumors will survive, they are often left with long-term side effects.
- No two brain tumors are alike. Prognosis, or expected outcome, is dependent on several factors including the type of tumor, location, response to treatment, an individual's age, and overall health status.
- Over 7% of all reported primary brain tumors in the United States are among children under the age of 20.

Source: [The National Brain Tumor Society](#)

Believe

FAMILY IN FOCUS



On January 19th, 2011 Hartlee was taken to U of M Mott's Children's Hospital and had a CT scan. She had been sick for 2 weeks and the hospital in Monroe and Toledo both had told Elizabeth that she just had a stomach Virus. The CT scan had shown that Hartlee actually had a tumor the size of a golf ball on the back of her brain.

On May 6 Hartlee had surgery to place a shunt in her head. On May 7, Liz and Blake that there was nothing they can do to save Hartlee and that she is going to die. Hartlee's mom later posted:

How loud do I have to scream it? I am not giving up on my baby. She is still not doing well and the doctor came in and said to me. It's ok to let her go. Why would he even say that to me? No it is not ok. She is a fighter. We are not giving up. I can't stop crying. Please God please please please don't take her away from us. I have dreamed about her my entire life. I wanted her so bad. I have been through so much with her in this short time we have had. Hartlee don't give up I love you so much.

Please continue to pray for Hartlee and her family.

Location of Different Types of Brain Tumors



Questions to ask your child's doctor

After your child is diagnosed with a [brain tumor](#), you may feel overwhelmed with information. It can be easy to lose track of the questions that occur to you.

Lots of parents find it helpful to jot down questions as they arise – that way, when you talk to your child's doctors, you can be sure that all of your concerns are addressed.

If your child is old enough, you may want to suggest that she write down what she wants to ask her health care provider, too.

Some of the questions you may want to ask include:

- Has my child's brain tumor spread?
- How long will my child need to be in the hospital?
- What are the possible short and long-term complications of treatment? How will they be addressed?
- What is the likelihood of cure?
- What services are available to help my child and my family cope?

What causes Diffuse Pontine Glioma?

The cause of diffuse pontine glioma is not currently understood.

There are no known factors or conditions that make your child more or less likely to develop this type of tumor. It might be reassuring to know that there's nothing that you could have done or avoided doing that would have prevented the tumor from developing.

What are the symptoms of a Diffuse Pontine Glioma?

Symptoms usually develop very rapidly prior to diagnosis, reflecting the fast growth of these tumors. Most patients have less than three months and many less than three weeks of symptoms prior to diagnosis.

While each child may experience symptoms of a diffuse pontine glioma differently, some of the most common include:

- Rapidly developing problems controlling eye movements, facial expressions, speech, chewing and swallowing (due to problems in the cranial nerves)
- weakness in the arms and legs
- Problems with walking and coordination

Keep in mind that the symptoms of a brain tumor may resemble other, more common conditions or medical problems. Always consult your child's physician for a diagnosis.

Source: [Children's Hospital of Boston](#)

Please keep these Brain Tumor warriors and their families in your thoughts and prayers:

Greyson ~ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pray-for-Grey-The-Journey-Continues/203374473068154?sk=wall>

Casey ~ <http://www.facebook.com/HelpingCasey?sk=wall>

Javon ~ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Team-Javon/282759921743208>

Alivia ~ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Prayers-for-Alivia/210885102332051?sk=wall>

Emily ~ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Prayers-for-Emily/112577985489046?sk=wall>