Discounted parking is available for patients and visitors in the Huron/St. Clair parking garage, 222 E. Huron St. Please bring your parking ticket with you. Tickets must be validated at customer service desks on the first and second floors of the Feinberg and Galter Pavilions and the first floor of Prentice Women’s Hospital to receive discount.

NORTHWESTERN BRAIN TUMOR INSTITUTE

Galter Pavilion
675 North St. Clair Street
21st Floor
Chicago, Illinois
Phone 855.695.NBTI (6284)

braintumorinstitute.org
A TEAM EFFORT

Developing a comprehensive treatment plan and providing each patient with the best possible outcome is a team effort for the dedicated specialists of the NBTI. Our accomplished clinicians and scientists work together to manage brain cancers and study their development in the laboratories. They apply new surgical techniques to minimize complications while providing maximum benefit, and offer innovative clinical trials of the most promising therapies. Advances in our understanding of tumor biology allow us to personalize care using targeted agents based on the genetic and molecular characteristics of an individual’s tumor type. Our goal is to provide each patient undergoing treatment with exceptional care leading to the best possible quality of life.

Many factors, including the tumor type, size, pathology, molecular profile, and location are considered to determine the most effective course of treatment. The process often involves a combination of surgery, radiation therapy, radiosurgery, and chemotherapy, including novel agents that work on tumor biology or in conjunction with the immune system. Our team comes together to review every case and to develop a treatment plan that is specific to each patient at a weekly multidisciplinary Brain Tumor Board Conference. Consultations and second opinions are also provided by individual physicians or at the Brain Tumor Board meeting.

The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute (NBTI) is a nationally recognized leader in the fight against brain and spinal cord tumors, offering patients the most advanced clinical trial and treatment options available. Our ability to call upon the world-class resources of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, the research and medical expertise of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation, and the exceptional healthcare facilities of Northwestern Memorial Hospital allows the NBTI to provide patients with the highest level of comprehensive care.

“I knew this wasn’t just a job to them. They were doing this for me; they wanted me to get better.” – NATHAN, 35 YEARS-OLD
OUR MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Your personalized treatment plan will be developed by the NBTI’s team of physician specialists, including:

» **Neuroradiologists** using state-of-the-art imaging systems and techniques to diagnose tumors, evaluate treatment effectiveness and provide non-invasive long-term follow up, including 3 Tesla and 1.5 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), functional MRI, MR perfusion, MR spectroscopy, diffusion tensor imaging, 128-slice computed tomography (CT), biplane angiography, single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET-CT).

» **Neuropathologists** evaluating all tumor samples to provide precise diagnostic information and identify molecular markers that may enhance treatments.

» **Neuro-oncologists** providing long-term management of your treatment plan and offering the most effective combination of chemotherapies for brain tumors. In addition to being authorities in the use of conventional anti-tumor drugs, NBTI neuro-oncologists conduct a wide range of innovative clinical trials, many developed at Northwestern, using targeted molecular therapies and intra-tumoral treatments.

» **Neurosurgeons** performing an average of 500 major brain tumor operations each year. The NBTI surgical team employs state-of-the-art technology including advanced neuro-navigation and brain mapping to maximize tumor removal and maintain neurologic function.

» **Endoscopic surgeons** (Neurosurgery and ENT) using a minimally invasive approach to remove skull base brain tumors through the nose as an alternative to traditional surgery.

» **Radiation oncologists** coordinating the planning and delivery of focused radiation therapy with precision; employing technologies such as 3-D conformal radiation, fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy, intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT) and brachytherapy. Northwestern, the only academic medical center in Chicago to offer Gamma Knife radiosurgery, recently acquired the Leksell Gamma Knife Perfexion and the Elekta Axesse, the most accurate, established and advanced radiosurgery systems available.

» **Neuro-opthalmologists** evaluating and assisting in the management of visual problems related to brain tumors.

» **Nurses and nurse practitioners** bringing special expertise in the care of brain tumor patients, providing health assessment, symptom management, screening for clinical trial eligibility, and quality of life assessment.

» **Neuro-Oncology Social Worker** offering emotional support and counseling, providing information, and helping patients manage the practical and financial impact of a brain tumor.

Treatment is only one aspect of each patient’s care. To ensure that patients and family members receive the emotional, physical and practical support they need, the team works closely with the Lurie Cancer Center’s Supportive Oncology Program.
New challenges can arise at each stage of diagnosis, treatment and recovery. The Lurie Cancer Center’s Supportive Oncology Team is committed to educating patients and caregivers, and providing the guidance and support they need to successfully meet the challenges that accompany a brain tumor diagnosis.

Supportive Oncology services include:

» Brain Tumor Support Group
» Cancer Rehabilitation Program (in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago)
» Clinical Psychologists
» Financial Services
» Fertility Preservation
» Health Learning Center Satellite / Medical Librarian
» Home Hospice Program
» Integrative Medicine
» Neuropsychologists
» Nutrition Services
» Palliative Care
» Psychiatrists
» Social Workers

CLINICAL TRIALS

A clinical trial, one of the final stages of a long and careful research process, is a way to prove that a new treatment is safe, effective and/or has fewer side effects than standard treatments. The NBTI is dedicated to developing clinical trials that provide patients with innovative treatment options for many tumor types at various stages of disease. Researchers develop a plan for a clinical trial, also known as a protocol, after laboratory studies or other data indicate that a new treatment, drug or device might show promise. NBTI patients have access to clinical studies offering novel, state-of the art therapies developed by our own physicians, as well as those that are done in cooperation with large, national oncology study groups.

The NBTI has also been leading supportive care studies that explore ways to improve the quality of life for patients with brain tumors, as well as the role played by caregivers.

Ask your doctor about clinical trials. Clinical trials that are currently accepting patients are listed on our website. Visit braintumorinstitute.org/clinical_trials to view the complete list, which is updated frequently.
RESEARCH

The NBTI joins together experts from diverse yet complementary disciplines, bringing their unique perspectives to our research efforts. By working closely with NBTI scientists, physicians are able to design clinical trials that may be more effective for our patients. For example, by observing the brain tissue after treatment, doctors can determine how efficiently a drug was delivered and how well it is working. Ultimately, this will enable us to treat each tumor, and each patient, even more individually.

As our teams of clinicians and scientists gain insights into the makeup and progression of brain tumors, they remain focused on translating discoveries in the laboratory—quickly and safely—into new and improved therapies. The knowledge generated by these partnerships will serve as the foundation for the NBTI’s efforts to train tomorrow’s scientific leaders.

NBTI researchers are closing in on important advances, including:

- Cell Migration
- Drug-Radiation Interactions
- Functional Genomics and Drug Target Discovery
- Imaging
- Metastasis
- Molecular Profiling
- Nanotechnology
- Proteomics

The NBTI’s research efforts are strengthened by collaborations with Northwestern University’s renowned Stem Cell Research Laboratory and International Institute for Nanotechnology, where scientists are developing systems to deliver more potent agents while reducing unwanted side effects. To learn more about research at the NBTI, visit braintumorinstitute.org/research.

“Because we conduct such high-level research and do so many clinical trials at NBTI, we are more likely to find therapies that will benefit patients.”

— JEFFREY J. RAIZER, MD
DIRECTOR, MEDICAL NEURO-ONCOLOGY
CO-DIRECTOR, NBTI

“The NBTI provides the most sophisticated and comprehensive approach to the management of brain and spine tumors that now exists.”

— JAMES P. CHANDLER, MD
DIRECTOR, SURGICAL NEURO-ONCOLOGY
CO-DIRECTOR, NBTI
CONTACT US / MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Whether you are already a patient, still exploring your options, or would like a second opinion, you can be certain that the staff of the NBTI will do everything possible to make sure you receive the best possible treatment in a caring, responsive environment. Your consultation will include a review of all available treatment options and will culminate in a comprehensive treatment plan specifically developed for you.

Your initial consultation and all outpatient services will take place in the Lurie Cancer Center on the 21st floor of Northwestern’s Galter Pavilion. You may be asked to send the following before your first appointment or to bring them with you:

» Medical records related to your tumor: Bring copies of your written records so that our physicians have a complete view of your medical history.

» Pathology slides and report: These can be obtained from the pathology department where your biopsy or surgery was performed.

» Copies of any MRI or CT scans: These can be obtained from the radiology department where they were taken.

» List of current medications

» Treatment history

Inpatient care is provided by NBTI physicians at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where specially designed floors are dedicated to the needs of cancer patients and their families.

Request an appointment online at braintumorinstitute.org

or call the NBTI toll-free at 855.695.NBTI (6284)
(Fax is 312.695.1106)

PHYSICIAN REFERRALS

The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute works closely with referring physicians from community and academic medical centers across the country. We are committed to maintaining communication throughout the treatment process, and offering ongoing support after you have made the transition back to your primary physician.

Physicians who wish to refer a patient or request a consultation with the Brain Tumor Board may call 855.695.NBTI (6284) to schedule an appointment.

BRAIN TUMOR INFORMATION

For more information on brain tumors, clinical trials, our multidisciplinary team, treatment, and additional resources, please visit the NBTI website at braintumorinstitute.org.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

With the help of our donor partners, we hope to increase knowledge about the spectrum of brain and spinal diseases and develop new strategies to treat them. Your donations could help us advance a promising research study, recruit a talented physician-scientist, develop a new educational program for our trainees, or purchase a key piece of equipment or technology.

For more information about supporting the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute visit braintumorinstitute.org/giving.