

NEUROFIBROMA (Solitary)

The term neurofibroma refers to a type of benign skin growth. These growths arise from cells that form the protective sheath around nerves underneath the skin. They are often slow growing and appear as flesh-colored or light brown bumps anywhere on the skin. Solitary neurofibromas frequently arise in adulthood and occur in approximately equal numbers in men and women. These growths may enlarge slowly over time but eventually stop growing and seldom reach any significant size.

The cause of neurofibromas is largely unknown. Neurofibromas can be single or can be multiple. People with one or a few neurofibromas have no genetic abnormalities and no internal disease.

Neurofibromas are not dangerous and usually cause no symptoms. Some patients report pain associated with these growths. This is more common with neurofibromas located on surfaces subject to pressure, such as the palms of hands. Painful neurofibromas may be removed without difficulty. Other potential reasons for removing neurofibromas are because of local irritation in the area or in the case of an uncertain diagnosis, in which the growth is removed and sent to a pathologist.

In summary, neurofibromas are harmless growths and should not be a cause for concern. If you have any questions, please ask me before you leave the office.