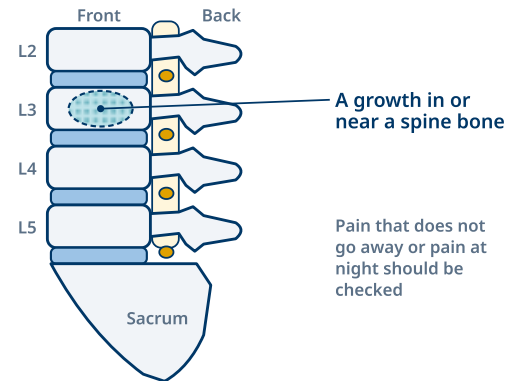


Spinal Tumors (Evaluation and Referral)

What it is

A spinal tumor is a growth in or near the spine. Some start in the spine, and some spread there from cancer in another part of the body. Back pain that does not go away, or pain at night, may be a sign.



Common symptoms

- Back or neck pain that is constant, worse at night or not related to activity
- Unexplained weight loss or a history of cancer with new back pain
- Numbness, weakness or balance problems
- Bladder or bowel changes (seek emergency care)

Self-care tips

- Tell us about any history of cancer.
- Write down when the pain started and what makes it worse.
- Keep all imaging and follow-up visits.
- Stay as active as your care team advises.

What to expect at GSMC

At your visit: A spine specialist asks about your symptoms and checks your strength, feeling and walking.

Tests: You may need X-rays, an MRI or a CT scan.

Your plan: Many people start with care that does not involve surgery. Surgery is discussed only if it may help.

When to call us

- Pain that keeps getting worse, or does not get better with care
- New numbness, tingling or weakness in an arm or leg
- Pain with fever, chills or weight loss you cannot explain
- Pain that keeps you from sleeping or doing daily tasks

Call 911 or go to the emergency room for loss of bladder or bowel control, numbness in the groin or inner thighs, or sudden leg weakness.

Call 732-202-3000

One number for all offices. Questions about this handout? We are glad to help.

Our 7 offices: Whiting · Toms River (Hooper Ave) · Brick · Barnegat · Manahawkin · Freehold · West Long Branch

gsmedicalcenter.org/services/spine/conditions/spinal-tumors/



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This handout is general information and is not a substitute for medical advice.