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LESS COMMON CANCERS

BRAIN TUMOUR
PANCREATIC CANCER
SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA

INTRODUCTION

Patients frequently present to primary care clinicians with a range of undifferentiated symptoms that may or may not indicate serious disease such as cancer. Clinicians have the role of identifying those patients whose symptoms suggest a serious underlying pathology and investigating and referring appropriately. Brain tumours, pancreatic cancer and soft tissue sarcoma can be challenging to diagnose early in the disease process as they often present with vague symptoms and signs, present late, or mimic other simple or benign conditions seen commonly in general practice. This can result in delayed diagnosis leading to delayed treatment and a poorer outcome for patients. Early diagnosis of these cancers is important to improve prognosis and quality of life. Pancreatic cancer although not so uncommon, is notoriously vague in its early presentation, and therefore has been included in this module.

This module focuses on adults and does not cover management of these cancers.

The aims of this module are:

- To alert primary care clinicians to presenting symptoms and signs which could indicate serious malignancy
- Identify risk factors and/or red flags for these three cancers
- Provide guidance on investigation within general practice and appropriate referral to achieve early diagnosis

Palliative care and end-of-life issues are dealt with in other modules.