

# Brain abscess clinical features

Clinical presentation of [brain abscess](#) is non-specific, with many cases having no convincing inflammatory or septic symptoms.

Abscess formation should be considered in case of clinical [deterioration](#), [headache](#), and any [neurological deficit](#) after febrile episodes.

Similar to any other [mass lesion](#) but tend to progress rapidly.

Symptoms of raised intracranial pressure, seizures and focal neurological deficits are the most common forms of presentation

Eventually, many abscesses rupture into the ventricular system, which results in a sudden and dramatic worsening of the clinical presentation and often heralds a poor outcome.

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The clinical features of a brain abscess can vary depending on factors such as the size, location, and rate of growth of the abscess. Here are some common clinical features associated with brain abscess:

**Headache:** Persistent and severe headaches are a common symptom. The headache may be localized to the site of the abscess and can be throbbing or constant.

**Fever:** Elevated body temperature is a common sign of infection, and a brain abscess can cause fever.

**Neurological Symptoms:** The presence of a brain abscess can lead to various neurological symptoms, including:

**Seizures:** Onset of seizures may occur, especially if the abscess irritates or compresses the surrounding brain tissue. **Focal Neurological Deficits:** Depending on the location of the abscess, patients may experience focal neurological deficits such as weakness, numbness, or problems with coordination. **Changes in Mental Status:** Altered mental status, confusion, or behavioral changes may be observed. **Nausea and Vomiting:** These symptoms can occur due to increased intracranial pressure and irritation of the brain tissue.

**Visual Disturbances:** If the abscess is located near the optic nerve or other visual pathways, visual disturbances may occur.

**Stiff Neck:** Meningeal irritation can lead to a stiff neck, which is characterized by difficulty in flexing or moving the neck.

**Photophobia:** Sensitivity to light can occur due to irritation of the meninges surrounding the brain.

**Fatigue:** Generalized fatigue and malaise may be present, reflecting the body's response to infection.

It's important to note that the symptoms of a brain abscess can develop gradually or suddenly, and they may mimic other neurological conditions.

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