

Hamartoma

A hamartoma is a benign, focal malformation that resembles a neoplasm in the tissue of its origin. This is not a malignant tumor, and it grows at the same rate as the surrounding tissues. It is composed of tissue elements normally found at that site, but which are growing in a disorganized mass. They occur in many different parts of the body and are most often asymptomatic and undetected unless seen on an image taken for another reason (incidentaloma).

see [Hypothalamic hamartoma](#).

see [Spinal intramedullary hamartoma](#).

see [Ecchordosis physaliphora](#)

Choristomas, forms of heterotopia, are closely related benign tumors, found in abnormal locations.

The two can be differentiated as follows: a hamartoma is an excess of normal tissue in a normal situation (e.g. a birthmark on the skin), while a choristoma is an excess of tissue in an abnormal situation (e.g. pancreatic tissue in the duodenum).

[Medial temporal lobe lesions](#), may be responsible for [seizures](#), especially “[uncal fits](#)” ([temporal lobe seizures](#)).

1. [hamartoma](#)
2. [mesial temporal sclerosis](#) : should see [atrophy](#) of the [parenchyma](#) in this area with dilatation of the [temporal horn](#) of the [lateral ventricle](#)
3. [glioma](#): may be low grade. Look for [mass effect](#) and possibly [enhancement](#)

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