

Schwannoma

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Schwannomas are [benign tumors](#) that are typically round, well-demarcated, and encapsulated, composed of [Schwann cells](#); the [tumors](#) can grow anywhere throughout the nervous system that contains [Schwann cells](#).

The absence of the [protein NF2/Merlin](#) causes an uninterrupted [cell proliferation](#) cascade originating from an abnormal interaction between an extracellular [mucopolysaccharide](#), hyaluronan (HA), and [schwann cell](#) surface [CD44](#) receptor, which has been identified as one of the central causative factors for schwannoma ¹⁾.

It has been described that a schwannoma may display variable degenerative changes such as fibrosis, cytological atypia, calcification, hemorrhage, or cystic formations ²⁾.

Cystic degenerations occurring in schwannomas are found in schwannomas of the orbital region, olfactory groove, tentorial hiatus, posterior cavernous sinus, presacral region, maxillary sinus, intramedullary spinal region, or intraventricular region ³⁾.

Classification

[Schwannoma Classification](#).

Epidemiology

Schwannomas, also known as the [nerve sheath tumors](#), [neurinomas](#) or [neurilemmomas](#), are the most common type of [intraspinal tumors](#), which are frequently observed in the cervical and lumbar regions

Diagnosis

[Schwannoma Diagnosis](#)

Differential Diagnosis

Schwannoma vs. neurofibroma. While similar in many ways, these tumors differ histologically. Schwannomas (née: neurilemmomas) arise from Schwann cells, which produce myelin. Neurofibromas consist of neurites (axons or dendrites of immature or developing neurons), Schwann's cells, and fibroblasts within a collagenous or myxoid matrix. In contrast to schwannomas which displace axons

¹⁾

Ariyannur PS, Vikkath N, Pillai AB. Cerebrospinal Fluid Hyaluronan and Neurofibromatosis Type 2. *Cancer Microenviron*. 2018 Aug 25. doi: 10.1007/s12307-018-0216-2. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30145722.

²⁾ ³⁾

Borges G, Bonilha L, Proa M Jr, Fernandes YB, Ramina R, Zanardi V, et al. Imaging features and treatment of an intradural lumbar cystic schwannoma. *Arq Neuropsiquiatr* 2005; 63: 681-684.

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