



Brain Tumour Australia Information

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Behaviour & Personality Changes

The Brain - Behaviour & Personality Changes

The brain tumour may affect personal insight and awareness and this may cause the following behaviours:

- Denial of the effects of the tumour, the diagnosis, the treatment and prognosis
- Having unrealistic goals, plans and expectations
- Experiencing problems in recognising & accepting changes in their own personal thinking & behaviour
- Resistance to efforts of carers/staff
- Not realise others need to have a turn at speaking during conversations
- Discuss consequences of inappropriate emotions
- Be prepared for changes by having an alternative plan of action
- Withdraw attention when appropriate
- Give calm, clear, honest feedback

Behaviour & Personality Changes

If you are a family member

Helpful hints/tips/strategies

- Gently remind the person diagnosed with the brain tumour of differences in abilities
- Explain why proposed action is useful, and reason through the steps
- Point out negative consequences of unrealistic goals
- Place external limitations where necessary (eg. Removal of driver's license or access to car)
- Provide opportunities for reality testing experiences gradually (eg. Let jobs be tried, things be done and then encourage new responsibilities to replace previous tasks if possible)
- Encourage checking their work/tasks
- Encourage "turn-taking" in conversation

Use signals agreed to in advance, to increase awareness if a conversation is becoming one sided

Emotions may be affected by individuals having:

- Problems dealing with anger and frustration
- Mood changes and losing temper quickly
- Behaviour changes, becoming physically/verbally abusive
- Difficulty showing and controlling emotion in an appropriate manner
- Difficulty or a lack of insight displaying any emotion at all

Helpful hints/tips/strategies

- Try to identify triggers which result in mood swings
- Distract or remove individuals from anger provoking situations
- Try not to escalate the situation by raising voice