

Big load off

Dramatic surgery rids senior citizen of large tumour. The 60-year-old could walk out the very next day

DIPTI BARVE

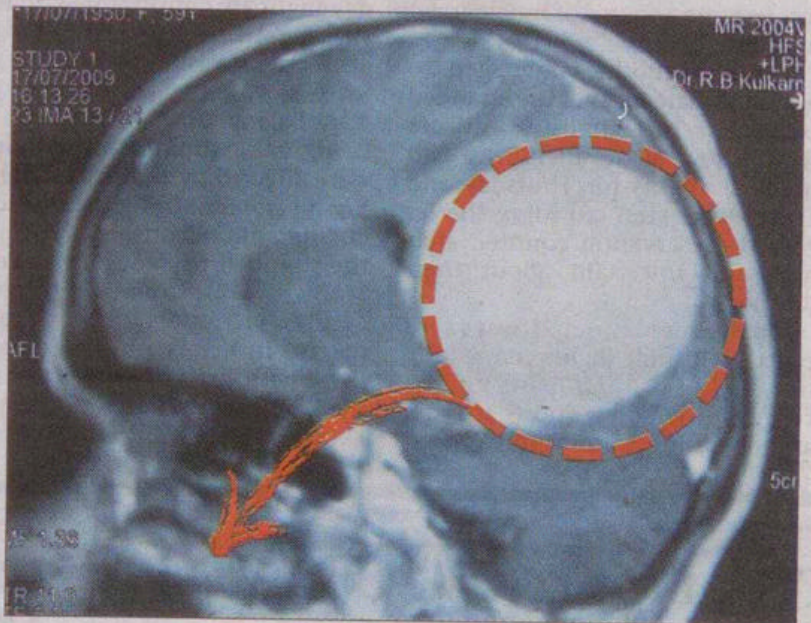
The word tumour would strike terror in the minds of most people. A really large tumour in the brain though would be a much scarier proposition. A meningioma (large tumour) was removed successfully at the Deenanath Mangeshkar hospital recently.

Dr Jaydev Panchwagh, neurosurgeon who performed the surgery told the *Pune Mirror*, "It was challenging to remove such a big tumour without disturbing any of the delicate parts of the brain. The tumour had attached itself to critical structures in the brain. It was stuck to a large blood vessel known as 'vein of Galen' which drains blood from the central most and the most important part of the brain. It was partly adhered to the mid brain which again is a very important and critical part and even the smallest damage to this part can endanger a patient's life. The tumour was also stuck behind another blood vessel known as 'torcula'. Such large brain tumours are rare and need to be operated in time as it may affect the central nervous system badly. In the past such tumours were dreaded and the chances of survival were remote but now it has become possible to remove such large tumours."

Bharati Pathak, a 60-year-old who underwent this surgery said, "Initially I was suffering from headache and frequent fainting. Then I was diagnosed with this large tumour. I was really shocked and scared. I was surprised when I was made to walk on the very next day after surgery."

“It was challenging to remove such a big tumour without disturbing delicate parts of the brain.

—Dr J Panchwagh



WHAT IS MENINGIOMA?

Meningiomas are the second most common primary tumour of the central nervous system, arising from the arachnid "cap" cells of the arachnid villi in the meninges. These tumours are usually benign in nature; however, they can be malignant.

SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Localised weakness
- Double vision
- Progressive drowsiness
- Vertigo



Bharati Pathak (right), the 60-year-old, who underwent critical surgery to remove the meningioma