



FACT SHEET

The Effect of a Brain Tumour on Driving

The effect of a brain tumour on driving varies greatly from person to person depending on a number of factors including, the location and size of your tumour, the treatment you are having for the tumour, and any medications you may be taking.

As a licence holder in NSW you have a responsibility to notify the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) of any condition, which is likely to affect your ability to drive safely.

Many people are able to safely return to driving following successful treatment of a brain tumour.

A brain tumour may cause you to experience one or more the following symptoms:

- muscle weakness
- visual problems
- impaired sensation
- incoordination
- fatigue
- poor concentration
- impaired decision making

Any of the above symptoms may affect your ability to drive safely.

- Muscle weakness may make it difficult for you to control the steering wheel, pedals and other vehicle controls.
- Visual problems may effect your observation of the driving environment, making it difficult to see pedestrians, vehicles and other road hazards.
- Impaired sensation can also make operating the vehicle controls difficult, and you may find that you need to look at your feet when moving them between the pedals. This affects the safety of your driving as you are taking your attention off the road.
- Incoordination of muscles can decrease the speed that you are able to complete manoeuvres in the vehicle. This can result in unsafe situations if you are not able to co-ordinate and move your limbs quickly enough to steer the vehicle out of danger
- Fatigue can be caused directly by the effect of the tumour on the brain or by the medications you might be taking. Fatigue impacts on all areas of safe driving and it is important to recognise this.
- Poor concentration can result from the tumour or your medications and makes safe driving difficult. Driving demands high levels of concentration to ensure you are aware of everything in the environment. Impaired decision making can also result from the tumour or your medications and can lead to potentially unsafe situations.



FACT SHEET

The Effect of a Brain Tumour on Driving

What Can You Do?

1. Discuss driving with your doctor – most people are advised not to drive while they are undergoing treatment, and for at least 3 months afterwards.
2. Have your doctor complete an RTA medical form that states if you are fit or unfit to continue to drive.
3. If following treatment you are still experiencing some of the symptoms listed above, you may require an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment before a decision about returning to driving is made. Ask your doctor, Occupational Therapist or Social Worker for more details.

Disclaimer: The information on this fact sheet should be used as a guide only and is in no way a substitute for advice given by your doctor. All information given was accurate at time of fact sheet development. Participants are encouraged to contact the RTA for further clarification if required.