About Desmoid Tumors

Desmoid tumors are locally aggressive tumors that form in the connective tissues of the body. They are referred to as aggressive fibromatoses or desmoid fibromatoses. Unlike many other cancers, desmoid tumors do not typically spread to other parts of the body. They can be challenging to treat due to their slow growth rate and unpredictable nature, and they can have a significant impact on people's lives. These tumors are most common in the abdomen and can affect any part of the body, including the head, neck, chest, extremities, and lower abdomen. Desmoid tumors can cause severe pain, limited function and mobility, disfigurement, and compromised quality of life. Malignant desmoid tumors can be life-threatening. While desmoid tumors are rare, approximately 1,000 to 1,650 new cases of desmoid tumors are diagnosed annually in the U.S. There are approximately 332,403,650 people in the U.S. as of January 1, 2022.

Desmoid Tumor Symptoms Can Include

- Pain
- Changes to body shape and physical function
- Limited range of motion
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Limited range of motion
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue

For some people, the pain and symptom burden can have psychological consequences, including:
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Fear
- Worry about altered appearance
- Concerns about a lack of knowledge among healthcare professionals

Treatment of Desmoid Tumors

Desmoid tumor experts and guidelines now recommend systemic treatment as first-line intervention instead of surgery for most tumor locations requiring treatment. Surgery is associated with increased rates of tumor recurrence, with up to 77% of patients experiencing recurrence following surgery. Early and accurate diagnosis may help improve outcomes for people living with desmoid tumors. Recent pregnancy, injury, or surgery may increase the risk of developing desmoid tumors. Women are 2 to 3 times more likely to be diagnosed than men. There are approximately 332,403,650 people in the U.S. as of January 1, 2022.

References