Possible effects of brain tumours and their treatment

Cognitive

Difficulties with:
- Attention/Concentration
- Memory
- Learning

Communication (speech; understanding language/instructions; reading social cues)
Processing speed/Problem-Solving
Planning
Visual-spatial awareness

Leading to:
- Headaches
- Being sick
- Difficulty walking

Hydrocephalus
(build-up of fluid in the brain)

Visual

Blindness/partial sight
Cataracts
Double vision

Unco-ordinated eye movements
Other visual defects e.g. blind spots

Skin

Rashes
Changes in colour
Skin thinning

Increased sensitivity to sunlight
Bruising

Fine motor control

Difficulties with:
- Writing
- Getting dressed

Mobility

Difficulties with:
- Walking
- Climbing stairs
- Co-ordination
- Balance

Muscle wasting & cramps
Use of wheelchair or walking aids

Nerve damage

Leading to:
- Pain in extremities in cold weather
- Difficulty making facial expressions

Endocrine changes

Leading to:
- Tiredness, weight gain, depression, growth impairment, sensitivity to cold, feeling thirsty, needing to go to the toilet more often, diabetes, infertility, erectile dysfunction

Emotional effects

Loss of self-confidence, low self-esteem, feelings of social isolation, anxiety and 'scanxiety' (anxiety about scan results), depression, fear of tumour recurring, fear of dying, (effect on siblings/friends)

Every young person is different and will experience different side-effects.

The side-effects will depend on the type and location of the tumour, the treatment received and the individual response.

One person will not have all these side-effects.

Some will be short-term; others may be long-term or delayed.