

## Neoplasms (Tumors)

### Pituitary Tumors

The **pituitary gland** can be thought of as the master control gland of the endocrine system. It secretes hormones that act on other glands and structures of the body, affecting thyroid function, adrenal function, sexual maturation and function, pregnancy, growth and other aspects of metabolism and physiology. The pituitary gland is situated at the base of the brain, in the midline, directly behind the optic chiasm. It is connected to the brain (hypothalamus) by the **pituitary stalk** or **infundibulum**.

Pituitary tumors, also called **adenomas**, are fairly common, benign tumors of the pituitary gland. They cause symptoms either by hormone functions (too much or too little), or by compression of the optic nerves /chiasm (mass effect) as they grow larger.



Figure 9: Large pituitary adenoma.