

Who are we?

BANA is managed by a Board of Trustees with a wide range of expertise. Some have a business background, others work in the medical field or in the charity sector. We have trustees with personal experience of the three main treatment options.

BANA promotes the annual Acoustic Neuroma Awareness Day on July 1st which is an opportunity for these rare tumours to be brought to the attention of the public.

BANA enlists the support of a Medical Advisory Panel of professionals who help raise awareness of Acoustic Neuromas and the associated signs and symptoms. Members of MAP will, if appropriate, answer questions from BANA members relating to their diagnosis.

Each year BANA holds a conference which is an opportunity for members to meet and share their experiences. Members can learn about the latest developments in treatments and about new hearing technologies available on the market. Members can find about other charities that may be able to offer additional support.

BANA actively supports research in the field. BANA also initiates research when funding allows. Members are encouraged to participate.

BANA strives to:

Connect, support, share experiences, reduce social isolation, improve mental health and support innovative research projects, moving towards a place where Acoustic Neuroma is no longer a life changing diagnosis.



We hope this information has been helpful to you and if we can be of further assistance please do contact us:

Your support makes a real difference

Tel: 01246 550011

Email: admin@bana-uk.com

Website: www.bana-uk.com

Tapton Park Innovation Centre, Brimington Road, Tapton, Chesterfield, S41 0TZ

British Acoustic Neuroma Association CIO
Registered Charity No. 1165065

Connecting with and supporting people.



Diagnosed with an Acoustic Neuroma?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

www.bana-uk.com

Our Work

BANA is a small national charity founded in 1992 by a patient-led group to provide support and information for people affected by acoustic neuromas and to aid and encourage innovative research. We are the only UK charity dedicated to acoustic neuromas, their related symptoms and effects. We endeavour to provide support for people diagnosed with acoustic neuromas and their families.

Our mission is to support people to help themselves after diagnosis. We offer a number of services, including area support groups, a quarterly magazine, member only network forums, information sheets and an up to date website. We listen to our members and we strive to offer new services in line with their needs. We support innovative research into acoustic neuromas so that, one day, a diagnosis will no longer be the life changing event it is now.

BANA is self-funding; we receive no statutory aid and rely on our members and supporters to fundraise and donate. Your support makes a real difference.

What are Acoustic Neuromas?

Acoustic neuromas (also known as Vestibular Schwannomas) are benign brain tumours that account for a small percentage of all brain tumours. They are usually slow growing. Some stop growing without intervention. Since they develop on the main **vestibular nerve** they may cause hearing loss, tinnitus and balance issues.

Symptoms

These can vary. Many people have some hearing loss or total single sided deafness. Other symptoms are tinnitus, vertigo, dizziness, fatigue, anxiety, depression and occasionally cognitive impairment or facial palsy.

How are Acoustic Neuromas detected?

The GP will refer the patient to an ENT consultant. A hearing test will be arranged and a clinical balance assessment will be made. An MRI scan is arranged to make the final diagnosis.

Treatments

There are three main options depending upon the size and location of the tumour and the severity of symptoms. These are:

- Watch/wait/rescan
- Surgery
- Stereotactic radiosurgery.

Further information about these treatments can be found on our free information sheets. These can be viewed or downloaded from our website

www.bana-uk.com

Help is on hand

Acoustic neuromas are quite rare and therefore it is not unusual for people to feel isolated, anxious or bewildered.

BANA aims to bring people together, to offer support and useful information.

BANA membership benefits

As a subscribing member of BANA you will receive the following:

Access to local support groups (subject to availability) run by volunteer host members.

Access to the Listening Ear project – volunteer members who have agreed to offer peer-to-peer telephone support.

Quarterly Headline magazine.
Free Information Sheets.

Access to our online forum in the member only area on our website.
Access to our closed Facebook page.

Hire of trophic stimulators (under medical supervision) for treatment of facial palsy.

Access to the Medical Advisory Panel.

Opportunity to attend our yearly conference.

Access to support for fundraising.
Volunteering Opportunities around the UK.