

TIP SHEET

Pediatric Cancers

What You Should Know

Cancer in children is rare, however, it remains the leading cause of death by disease among children age 1 to 14 in the United States.

Among the 12 major cancers diagnosed in children, these three types account for more than half of all new cases:

- **blood cell** cancers, such as leukemia and lymphoma
- **brain** cancers
- **central nervous system (CNS)** cancers

Recent decades have seen dramatic treatment advances and the 5-year survival rate for childhood cancers is now more than

80%

How Does a Child Get Cancer?

The causes are largely unknown. Childhood cancers can appear suddenly with no early symptoms. A small percentage of cases are attributed to:

- **Genetic syndromes**, such as Li Fraumeni syndrome, neurofibromatosis, and Gorlin's syndrome
- **Down syndrome**, which increases risk for leukemia
- **Ionizing radiation exposures**, from accidents or radiotherapy
- **Prior cancer treatment** with certain chemotherapy drugs or radiation therapy
- **AIDS**. Children with AIDS have an increased risk for Hodgkin lymphoma, Kaposi sarcoma and leiomyosarcoma.

Symptoms of Pediatric Cancers

Early signs of pediatric cancers are difficult to recognize and more often indicate common illnesses and injuries. Parents should ensure children get regular medical checkups and seek attention for a symptom that doesn't go away, such as:

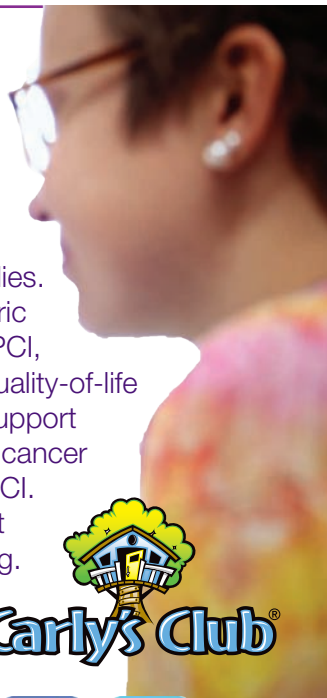
- ✓ An unusual lump or swelling
- ✓ Unexplained paleness or lack of energy
- ✓ Easy bruising
- ✓ Ongoing pain in one area
- ✓ Limping
- ✓ Unexplained fever or illness
- ✓ Frequent headaches, often with vomiting
- ✓ Sudden eye or vision changes
- ✓ Sudden unexplained weight loss

GET A SECOND OPINION

If your child faces a cancer diagnosis, you need a second opinion. Let us help you arrange a consultation and pathology review.

CARLY'S CLUB

This unique organization, inspired by a young RPCI patient, is dedicated to making life easier for pediatric patients and their families. The club is the pediatric fundraising arm of RPCI, sponsoring patient quality-of-life programs, medical support staff and pediatric cancer research at RPCI. Learn more at carlyclub.org.



Carly's Club®



ROSWELL PARK
CANCER INSTITUTE

1-877-ASK-RPCI (1-877-275-7724) | www.roswellpark.org





Why Roswell Park Cancer Institute?

We approach cancer care for our youngest patients looking well beyond survival, with a dedication to long-term quality of life.

Kid-centered environment including kid-friendly patient rooms with a bed for a parent or caregiver to stay overnight; entertainment-minded activity room; and art therapy and pet therapy programs.

Age-appropriate support programs to address the unique medical, psychological and emotional needs of our patients, including:

- **Carly's Club.** Provides for monthly programs and events, in-unit holiday dinners, celebrations and activities; stocked inpatient kitchen and kid-friendly snack cupboard; toy closet, special occasion parties, patient outings, and more.
- **Teens Living with Cancer (TLC)** peer-to-peer support program for ages 13 to 19; provides bi-weekly events and activities in the TLC Lounge, a comfortable teen hangout on the RPCI campus.
- **Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Program** for patients age 15 to 39 during treatment and beyond, specifically addressing issues regarding fertility, insurance, and medical care. Provides monthly events for peer-to-peer support.

Long-term follow up clinic provides specialized medical care and counseling to former childhood cancer patients helping them build full, productive lives. RPCI's clinic—one of the first of its kind in the nation—is open to any survivor of childhood cancer, regardless of where treatment was received.

Treatment the RPCI Way

Childhood cancers do not act like adult cancers and are not treated the same way. Key aspects of our pediatric oncology expertise:

Multidisciplinary team approach means care is planned and delivered by a team of experts—oncologists, neurosurgeons, hematologists, child psychologists and nurses—specifically trained and experienced in treating young patients.

Blood & Marrow Transplant Center with high volume experience and uniquely qualified to treat patients as young as 4. RPCI is designated a Blue Distinction Center® for Blood & Marrow Transplant by BlueCross, Blue Shield Association.

Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for minimally-invasive treatment of brain tumors and select brain disorders. RPCI is the only center in Western New York to offer this critical treatment.

Meet the Doctors

(above from left to right)

Pediatric Oncology

- 1) Steven Ambrusko, MD, MS
- 2) Barbara Bambach, MD
- 3) Matthew Barth, MD
- 4) Lynda Kwon Beaupin, MD
- 5) Martin Brecher, MD
- 6) Lorna Fitzpatrick, MD
- 7) Meghan Higman, MD, PhD
- 8) Denise Rokitka, MD, MPH

Radiation Oncology

- 9) Dheerendra Prasad, MD, MCh, FACRO

Family Medicine

- 10) Martin Mahoney, MD, PhD

PsychoSocial Oncology

- 11) Brandee Aquilino, PsyD, MA
- 12) Kristen Fix, LMSW

RPCI's Partnership with Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo offers pediatric cancer patients the best of both facilities.