



TIP SHEET

Pediatric Cancers & Blood Disorders

What You Should Know

Cancer in children is rare, yet it remains the leading cause of death by disease among children ages 1 to 14. Of 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

Pediatric blood disorders are a group of non-cancerous but serious conditions that affect the ability of blood cells to function properly — carrying nutrients and oxygen, fighting off infection or disease, or clotting. These disorders include:

- **Genetic blood diseases**, such as sickle cell disease, thalassemia and other hemoglobinopathies
- **Blood disorders**, such as hemophilia or idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP)
- **Blood clotting disorders**

The five-year survival rate for all pediatric cancers has improved from 63% in the mid-1970s to more than **83%** today.

Symptoms to Tell Your Child’s Doctor

Early signs of pediatric cancers and blood disorders 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
- ✓ Abnormal bleeding or 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

Significant treatment advances have resulted in a cure or long-term remission for a substantial number of patients.

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.



CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDERS PROGRAM



Why Roswell Park Oishei Children's?

- **Collaborative pediatric program** combines the strengths of two premier specialty centers: upstate New York's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and the only stand-alone children's hospital in the WNY region.
- **Streamlined access** to the best of both centers' unique capabilities, such as pediatric surgical suites and critical care services, blood and marrow transplantation, Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapies, Gamma Knife radiosurgery and erythrocytapheresis and other chronic transfusion therapies.
- **Comprehensive molecular testing** with OmniSeq Comprehensive™ and Immune Report Card™ to match personalized therapy to patients.
- **Clinical trials**, which provide access to the latest therapies.

Surrounded by Support

We treat the whole patient, not just the disease. Patients and their families benefit from holistic support services that look beyond survival to lifelong wellness. Among them:

Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Survivorship program to manage treatment effects and provide social support, guidance and legal and financial assistance.

Integrative Medicine program to ease the impact of cancer treatment with acupuncture, acupressure, massage therapy, reflexology, aromatherapy and mind-body therapy.

Pediatric Psychology, Social Work, Patient Navigators and Child Life Specialists dedicated to the outpatient and inpatient pediatric cancer and blood disorders centers.

Courage of Carly (Roswell Park) and **Stone's Buddies** (OCH) provide support, events and outings for families with a child facing cancer or another chronic, life-threatening illness.

Meet the Doctors

(above from left to right)

Pediatric Oncology

- 1) **Kara Kelly, MD**
Pediatric Oncology – Leukemia/Lymphoma
Waldemar J. Kaminski Endowed Chair of Pediatrics
Division Chief, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
- 2) **Steven Ambrusko, MD, MS**
Pediatric Hematology – Sickle Cell and Thalassemia,
Vascular Anomalies, General Hematology
- 3) **Barbara Bambach, MD**
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology – Leukemia/Lymphoma,
Blood & Marrow Transplantation
- 4) **Matthew Barth, MD**
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology – Leukemia/Lymphoma
- 5) **Lorna Fitzpatrick, MD**
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology –
Neuro-oncology and Neurofibromatosis
- 6) **Meghan Higman, MD, PhD**
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology – Leukemia/Lymphoma,
Blood & Marrow Transplantation
- 7) **Shilpa Jain, MD, MPH**
Pediatric Hematology – Hemophilia, General Hematology
- 8) **Denise Rokitka, MD, MPH**
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology – Solid Tumors, Pediatric,
Adolescent and Young Adult Survivorship Program
- 9) **Beverly Schaefer, MD**
Pediatric Hematology – Thromboses,
Hemophilia, General Hematology
- 10) **Clare Twist, MD, MS**
Pediatric Oncology – Solid Tumors,
Experimental Therapeutics
- 13) **Brandee Aquilino, PsyD, MA**
Pediatric Psychology
- 14) **Catherine Flanagan-Priore, PhD**
Pediatric Psychology

In general, surgery and inpatient care, including blood and marrow transplants, take place at **Oishei Children's Hospital**. Outpatient chemotherapy and infusions, radiation treatment and radiosurgery take place at **Roswell Park**.