



National
Cancer
Society
Malaysia

Giving Hope Celebrating Life



BRINGING EDUCATION AND UNDERSTANDING TO YOU



CHILDHOOD *Cancer*

Bringing Education And Understanding To You

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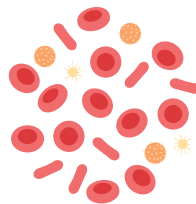
How can I confirm if my child has cancer?

I What is **childhood cancer**?



- **Childhood cancer** occurs when cells in the body grow out of control and start changing in an abnormal way.¹
- Childhood cancer affects children **aged 0-19**.²

Blood cancer (Leukemia)



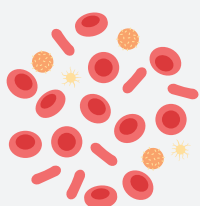
- The most common type of childhood cancer is **leukemia**.²
- Children who are between **0-4 years** are the most common age group to be diagnosed with childhood cancer.²

References:

1. World Health Organization. Cancer in Children [Internet]. World Health Organization; 2018. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer-in-children>
2. Incidence of Childhood Cancer in Malaysia 2007-2016. National Cancer Institute. Ministry of Health Malaysia.

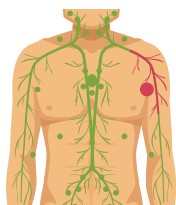
I What are the most common types of childhood cancer?

THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF CANCER FOUND IN CHILDREN IN MALAYSIA (0-19 YEARS OLD)² (2012-2016)



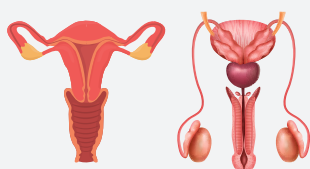
Leukemia

34%



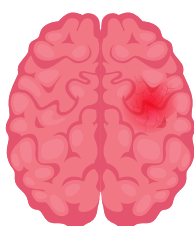
Lymphoma

15%



**Reproductive Cell and
Reproductive Gland**

10%



Brain

10%



Bone

7%

Percentages are based on a total number of 4,303 cases diagnosed in 2012-2016.²

I What are the signs and symptoms of **childhood cancer**?

- Unfortunately, cancer cannot be prevented in children, therefore it is very important to recognise the signs and symptoms.³

Signs and symptoms of **childhood cancer**^{3,4}



Lump(s) in the neck, armpit, or groin area



Fever



Unexplained bruising



Unexplained weight loss



Continuous and unexplained tiredness

The difference between signs and symptoms:

Signs are what others see (e.g. swelling and bleeding),
symptoms are what you feel (e.g. headache and pain).⁵

If you notice these problems that do not go away with or without treatment, please get your child checked by a doctor as soon as possible.⁴

References:

3. American Cancer Society. Finding Cancer in Children [Internet]. 2019 [cited on 2022 Dec 7]. Available from: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-in-children/finding-childhood-cancers-early.html>

4. Cancer Research UK. Signs and symptoms of cancer in children. [Internet]. 2020 Sep 17. [cited on 2022 Dec 7]. Available from: <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/childrens-cancer/symptoms>

5. American Cancer Society. Signs and Symptoms of Cancer [Internet]. 2020 Nov 6 [cited on 2022 Dec 28]. Available from: <https://www.cancer.org/treatment/understanding-your-diagnosis/signs-and-symptoms-of-cancer.html>

I What are the signs and symptoms of childhood cancer? (continued)

Signs and symptoms of childhood cancer^{3,4}



Changes in the eye – white-coloured pupil, poor eyesight, bruising or swelling around the eye(s)



Prolonged bone pain or swelling in the affected area (more than 2 weeks)



Dizziness, loss of balance or coordination



Persistent headaches in the morning or gets worse over the days

The difference between signs and symptoms:

Signs are what others see (e.g. swelling and bleeding), **symptoms** are what you feel (e.g. headache and pain).⁵

If you notice these problems that do not go away with or without treatment, please get your child checked by a doctor as soon as possible.⁴

I How can I confirm if **my child has cancer**?

- First, visit a doctor, who will perform the following procedures on your child⁶:



1. Doctor consultation

- The doctor will ask questions and perform routine examinations.



2. Blood test and biopsy

- The doctor will take your child's blood using a needle and a syringe to look for abnormalities in your child's blood cells.
- If the results are abnormal, the doctor may proceed with a biopsy.
- **Biopsy:** the doctor will insert a needle into your child's lump (lymph node) or bone marrow (hip bone) to take some blood samples.
- With this blood sample, the doctor can check for abnormal cells to confirm the diagnosis of cancer.
- After confirming the diagnosis, the doctor will refer your child to a centre that treats children with cancer.

References:

6. American Cancer Society. Tests for childhood leukaemia [Internet]. [updated 2019 February 12; cited on 2022 Dec 7]. Available from: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/leukemia-in-children/detection-diagnosis-staging/how-diagnosed.html>

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