

Pediatric Oncology

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Pediatric Oncology

Pediatric Oncology is a general medical word for children's cancer. Childhood cancer is less than 2% of all cancers diagnosed each year. On a range from 12-14,000 children are given a diagnosis for some form of cancer on a yearly basis. Over the course of the last fifty years, treatments and cure rates have dramatically improved from 10-20% to 80-85% five year survival rates. When your child gets diagnosed with a type of cancer, you probably think your life is falling apart. There is psychosocial support of children with cancer and their families offered to each family to give them emotional support, for the past five decades.

Leukemia

Leukemia is the most common cancer found in children (30%). Leukemia is a very serious cancer formed in the blood. Blood is made in the part of the body called bone marrow. The bone marrow is a soft, spongy center of certain bones. Leukemia is a type of cancer in white blood cells. White blood cells are cells that fight infections throughout the body. Children with leukemia can have fevers and trouble fighting infections. Some other side effects would be, paleness, tiredness, bruise easily, and bleed easily. Leukemia affects along the lines of 4,000 children each year, within the U.S.. There are different types of leukemia. One is called Acute Lymphoblastic leukemia, also known as ALL for short. "Acute" means the cancer grows quickly, so it needs to be treated as soon as it is discovered. The age range of children who are commonly diagnosed with ALL is between 2-4 years old. The second category is AML, which stands for Acute Myelogenous Leukemia. It is the second most common type of leukemia found in children. AML is found in both children and teenagers. Some people think, because leukemia is a cancer, it comes from genetics. That is not always the case with this cancer. Scientists have developed research stating, the immune system helps our bodies fight cancer so the changes in

the immune system can increase the risk and development of leukemia. Children who might have another cancer and get chemotherapy or radiation, can later have the risk of leukemia development in the future. Some diagnosis procedures for leukemia can be a bone marrow biopsy, complete blood count (CBC), additional blood tests, Computed Tomography Scan (CAT scan), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), X-ray, and/or an Ultrasound, ect.

Long- term effects of childhood cancer

About 85% of children with cancer live 5 years or more after they are diagnosed with cancer because of how dramatic the treatment has gone up over the years. Unfortunately, the treatment used to stop cancer has caused long term health problems. If you ring the bell and then get cancer again, that can affect you by starting treatment all over again. Cancer can also always come back in the future when they become adults. The most long-term effect would be the emotional aspect of childhood cancer. The parents for one. Knowing how serious life became for your child is really hard to go through. Also showing your kid to stay strong by doing that yourself is very hard but important to show. As for the child, growing up so fast with developing cancer is also a serious long term effect. It is sad knowing that kids can't live normal kid lives by going outside and playing at the park or playing with toys. It's hard to know that they are getting serious things done to them. If a child passes away from cancer, it's hard for a lot of people to go past the thought of them not living the years ahead of them. Surviving cancer as a child can put a perspective and new way of living throughout the rest of their life.

Stop Children's Cancer

Stop Children's Cancer is an organization started by Bonnie Freeman. In 1981, Bonnie was 10 years old when she was diagnosed with Leukemia. She shared with her parents, "Let's do something so others don't have to go through what we are going through." After that vision was

made, Bonnie and her family made that dream come alive. Stop Children's Cancer was created by a 10 year old girl and her family. For 2.5 years, Bonnie participated in launching the organization by writing and stuffing letters, TV appearances, helping with bake sales, and doing whatever was needed to create awareness about childhood cancer. Bonnie was a very self-motivated and loving girl. She would spend days writing letters to other children with cancer to encourage them into fighting and getting through this time. The funding she wanted has made a huge difference and has dramatically increased as the years go on. Pediatric Oncology is poorly funded by the government. Not that it is overlooked by the government, they just fund more for adult cancer than kids cancer. In 1983, interest rates were high. Bonnie's wish was to make \$1,000,000 dollars in order to make a difference. Her wish came true very quickly. 42 years later, Stop Children's Cancer has raised over \$23 million dollars for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine. Pediatric Oncology has not at all been overlooked today. Although Bonnie Freeman lost her hard battle with cancer, her parents, Howard and Laurel, her sister Carolyne R. Freeman, and many friends and supporters continue everyday to support her organization, Stop Children's Cancer, and continue to keep Bonnie's legacy thriving.

Annotated Bibliography

American Cancer Society. (2023). *Late and Long-term Effects of Childhood Cancer Treatment*.

Cancer.org.

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/childhood-cancer/late-effects-of-childhood-cancer-treatment.html>

This website helped me create a paragraph letting people know how hard it is afterwards to have cancer. There is a lot of emotional trauma and effects that happen to not only the child but the parents and family members as well. I love kids. I teach kids at my church every once in a while and I want to study cancer because of how many different lines/cases of cancer have gone through my entire family. The one that impacted me was my grandma having cancer. People don't realize how serious cancer and life is until one person very close to you dies from it. I have so much empathy towards the families of not only kids, but family members in general with cancer. And I think that aspect helped me also write this paper.

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. (2014, September 11). *Pediatric Leukemias* | *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*. Chop.edu.

<https://www.chop.edu/conditions-diseases/pediatric-leukemias>

This website helped me with learning even more about leukemia. Leukemia is the most popular cancer discovered within children. It made me realize how many kids get it each year which is very sad to me. The reason why i wanted to write about one form of cancer is to use an example, but two to learn more about only one type of cancer i will be hopefully studying when I continue my studies into college.

Mavrides, N., & Pao, M. (2014). Updates in paediatric psycho-oncology. *International Review of Psychiatry (Abingdon, England)*, 26(1), 63–73.

<https://doi.org/10.3109/09540261.2013.870537>

This website helped me with knowing the percentages of different types of cancers that go through children today.

Stop Children's Cancer. (2025). Stopchildrencancer.org.

<https://www.stopchildrencancer.org/>

This website has helped me research this paper by having an example on how Pediatric Oncology is not at all overlooked. My Pappy (grandpa) has been on the Board of Directors for 26 years and the President for 3 terms, making it a total of 9 years, of Stop Children's Cancer. He has been impacted by Bonnie's story and other kids as well. He is a great friend to Dr. Slayton who is a Pediatric Oncologist and works for University of Florida. He has also had a huge impact on the research being done at UF which is funded by Stop Children's Cancer. I hope one day I can continue to live out Bonnie's legacy by studying Pediatric Oncology and helping kids fight through their journey of cancer.

July 3, 1983

Dear Friends,

My parents, Howard and Laurie,
and my sister, Carolynne and I started
the Stop! Children's Cancer Fund.
We started this fund 2½ years ago.
This fund is to help other children
be cured of cancer.

Our family has put alot of time
and energy into this fund. I want every-
one to appreciate all the hard work our
family and others have done. I feel that since
the money from this fund is for all the kids in
the world, everyone should help! We need your
help to raise over \$1,000,000.

Money is not the only way you can help.
We need people to make things to sell, work on
paper stuff and spread the word of the fund to
others.

I don't want other kids and their
families to go through all the same things
which we had to.

Love,
Bonnie Freeman
12 years old



Bonnie R. Freeman was born October 8, 1970 and died at home
on July 10, 1983 after a 2 1/2 year struggle with Leukemia.

B.R.F.
NOV 1982