

CHILDHOOD CANCER FAST FACTS

Every year,
more than
950
CHILDREN AND
ADOLESCENTS
are diagnosed
with cancer¹

CANCER
kills more
CHILDREN
than any
other disease

In Australia

Every week, nearly **3**
CHILDREN &
ADOLESCENTS
will die from cancer¹



THE CELLS

in our bodies are
programmed to divide
a certain number of
times before dying off.



CANCER OCCURS

when abnormal genetic
changes cause cells to grow
or divide uncontrollably.

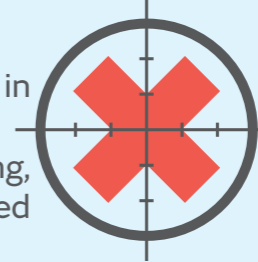
MOST CURRENT CANCER TREATMENTS

work by attacking all rapidly dividing cells including the cancer cells.



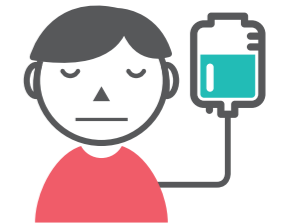
UNFORTUNATELY

there are other rapidly dividing cells in
the body that are perfectly normal
e.g. in the hair follicles, stomach lining,
mouth & immune system are attacked
by the chemotherapy drugs.



THIS IS WHY

people who have
chemotherapy often lose their
hair, suffer nausea, mouth
ulcers & succumb to
infections as well as other
debilitating side effects.



CHILDHOOD CANCER

Many of these cancers originate before birth. The development
of childhood cancer involves genes that should be active being
'switched off' & genes that should be inactive being 'switched on'.



SIXTY
YEARS AGO
CANCER
was considered
a death sentence

NOW
8/10
CHILDREN
will survive



THANKS TO MEDICAL RESEARCH

HOWEVER

SOME TYPES OF
AGGRESSIVE FORMS OF
CHILDHOOD CANCERS

including some **BRAIN CANCERS,**
SARCOMAS, LEUKAEMIAS,
AND NEUROBLASTOMAS

fail to respond to standard therapy
& have limited treatment options.

SIDE EFFECTS can be serious & life-long

40%
long term
side effects

30%
no known
side effects



infertility



diabetes



hearing loss



learning disorders



heart problems



secondary cancers



The Sydney
children's
Hospitals Network
care, advocacy, research, education