

# **International Childhood Cancer Day**

Every year, more than 400,000 children and adolescents below the age of 20, are diagnosed with cancer. The rate of survival can be dependent on the region, with an 80% survival in most high-income countries but as low as 20% in low and middle-income countries.

The aim for the World Health Organisation's Global Childhood Cancer Initiative is to eliminate all pain and suffering of children fighting cancer and achieve at least 60 percent survival for all children diagnosed with cancer around the world by 2030.

### What is ICCD?

International Childhood Cancer Day is a global collaborative campaign that raises awareness and promotes an increased appreciation and deeper understanding of the challenges faced by children and adolescents with cancer, including the survivors and their families. ICCD spotlights the need for more equitable access to treatment and cares for all children with cancer, everywhere.



## Screening for cancer in children

Childhood cancers are very rare, and there are currently no widely recommended screening tests to help look for cancer in children who are not at increased risk

Some children have a higher chance of developing a specific type of cancer because of certain gene changes they inherit from a parent. These children may need careful, regular medical check-ups that include special tests to look for early signs of cancer.

#### The most common cancers children get are:

- Leukaemia
- Brain and spinal cord tumours
- Neuroblastoma
- Wilms tumour
- Lymphoma (including both Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin)
- Rhabdomyosarcoma
- Retinoblastoma
- Bone cancer (including osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma)

Other types of cancers are rare in children. In very rare cases, children may even develop cancers that are much more common in adults.



## **What Causes Childhood Cancers?**

There is very little known about the cause of childhood cancers or the ability to prevent them and some unique cancers are caused by rare inherited conditions. There has been a lot of research about carcinogens, including environmental exposures such as second-hand cigarette smoke, electrical power lines, cell phones and chemical exposures in pregnant women. While some of these factors might play a role in the development of cancer, there is no clear evidence about the role of the environment in childhood cancers.

### Home

www.childhoodcancerinternational.org

WE ARE CHILDHOOD CANCER INTERNATIONAL WE ARE CHILDHOOD CANCER INTERNATIONAL Advancing Cure, Transforming Care Childhood is a time of innocence and joy. Unfortunately, there is a growing, unrecognized menace that robs our children and adolescents of t...

## ICCD – International Childhood Cancer Day

internationalchildhoodcancerday.org

International Childhood Cancer Day On February 15th International Childhood Cancer Day is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer, and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and the



Protect Your Child from Cancer in Adulthood: Four Lifestyle Tips - Children's Hospital Los Angeles

www.chla.org

Whenever a child is diagnosed with a cancer the number one question I see as a pediatric nurse practitioner in Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases is, "What caused my child's cancer?" Parents often wonder if there was any way they could h...