

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. It is the only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children. Treatments developed at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since the hospital opened more than 50 years ago. St. Jude is working to increase the overall survival rate for childhood cancer to 90 percent in the next decade. St. Jude freely shares the breakthroughs it makes, and every child saved at St. Jude means doctors and scientists worldwide can use that knowledge to save thousands more children.



Division of Cancer Predisposition

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Your Visit at The Cancer Predisposition Program

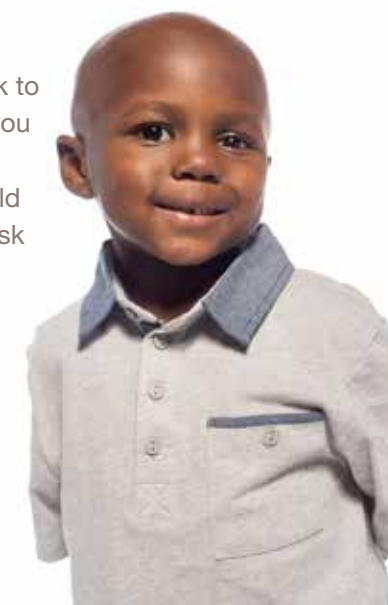


Knowing Your Family Cancer Risk

Although most cancers affecting children are not thought to be inherited (passed down through generations), about 5-10 percent of children develop cancer due to an underlying genetic condition. The Cancer Predisposition Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital helps to evaluate and take care of children who are at increased genetic risk for cancer. We are a team of doctors, nurses, genetic counselors, psychologists and social workers who work with families to find out if a child's cancer might be due to a genetic condition and determine whether other family members are also at risk to develop cancer. We provide confidential genetic counseling and testing, recommendations for cancer screening and treatment and opportunities for participation in research.

Why You Might Visit The Cancer Predisposition Program

- Your child has a cancer that might be linked to a specific genetic condition
- Your child does not have a cancer, but has a genetic condition that increases the risk to get it
- Close family members have a genetic condition that increases the risk to get cancer and you want to find out whether your child may also be at risk



How The Cancer Predisposition Program Can Help You

You probably have many questions about your child's diagnosis or cancer risk. We can help you find answers to these questions. For example, we can:

- Review your child's and the family's medical history
- Discuss information on specific conditions that can increase the risk for cancer
- When needed, arrange genetic testing for these conditions
- Review and explain genetic test results
- Talk with you about whether you, your child or other family members are at risk, including future children
- Give you educational materials about the condition
- Help you to understand what cancer screening tests are available
- Assist with setting up cancer screening tests
- Tell you about the results of cancer screening tests
- Help you find mental, emotional, social and spiritual support
- Help you get involved in research

What to Expect at Your Visit to The Cancer Predisposition Program

A genetic counselor, nurse and/or doctor will talk with you and your child about:

- Your child's medical and family history
- Genetic testing
- What cancer screening tests are available
- How your child's diagnosis affects you, your child and other family members

A doctor or nurse practitioner may perform a physical exam.

How to Prepare for Your Visit to The Cancer Predisposition Program

Gather your family medical history. It is important to know the medical history of parents, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents, especially anyone who had cancer. If a family member had cancer, follow these steps as much as possible:

1. Ask for copies of family members' cancer medical records to share with your child's doctor, nurse and genetic counselor.
2. If you cannot get copies of their medical records, try to find out what type of cancer they had and how old they were when it was found.
3. If a family member had cancer in more than one body part, try to find out if doctors thought it was one type of cancer that spread, or different types of cancer that happened separately.
4. If the cancer happened in the eyes, breasts, kidneys or adrenal glands, try to find out if only one or both of these organs was affected.
5. If any family members had cancer genetic testing, ask for copies of their test reports.

Write down your questions.

We want to be sure we answer all your questions and give you the information you need. Talk with your family members and make a list of questions and concerns that you want to discuss.

What Happens After Your Visit to The Cancer Predisposition Program

- Your genetic counselor, nurse and a team of doctors who specialize in cancer and genetics will review your child's medical, treatment and family histories.
- We will discuss genetic testing for other family members, if needed.
- We might refer you to a specialist in your community for care.
- We will create a care plan for your child and other family members, if needed.

To make an appointment

If your child is a St. Jude patient:
Have your child's treatment doctor request a consult

If your child is new to St. Jude:
Contact the St. Jude Physician/Patient Referral Office

Voice: 1-888-226-4343 or 901-595-4055

Fax: 901-595-4011

