

# FACTS ABOUT PAEDIATRIC CANCER

- Paediatric cancer is **rare, but is fatal** if not diagnosed and treated.
- Most paediatric cancers are **curable if found early** and referred to Princess Marina Hospital immediately.
- There are **many types** of paediatric cancers.
- Recognition of cancer symptoms is **life-saving!**

## ABDOMINAL CANCERS NEED TO BE TREATED RIGHT AWAY

If you think your child might have one of these types of cancers of the abdomen, your child's doctor should consider the following:

- Physical exam and identification of abnormal findings
- Blood tests such as full blood count
- Ultrasound of abdomen
- Computed tomography (CT) scan
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan
- Biopsy of mass (EXCEPT if Wilms Tumour is suspected)

If cancer is suspected, your child's doctor should consult the paediatric oncology team at Princess Marina Hospital.

▶ Paediatric Haematologist/Oncologist  
at Princess Marina Hospital

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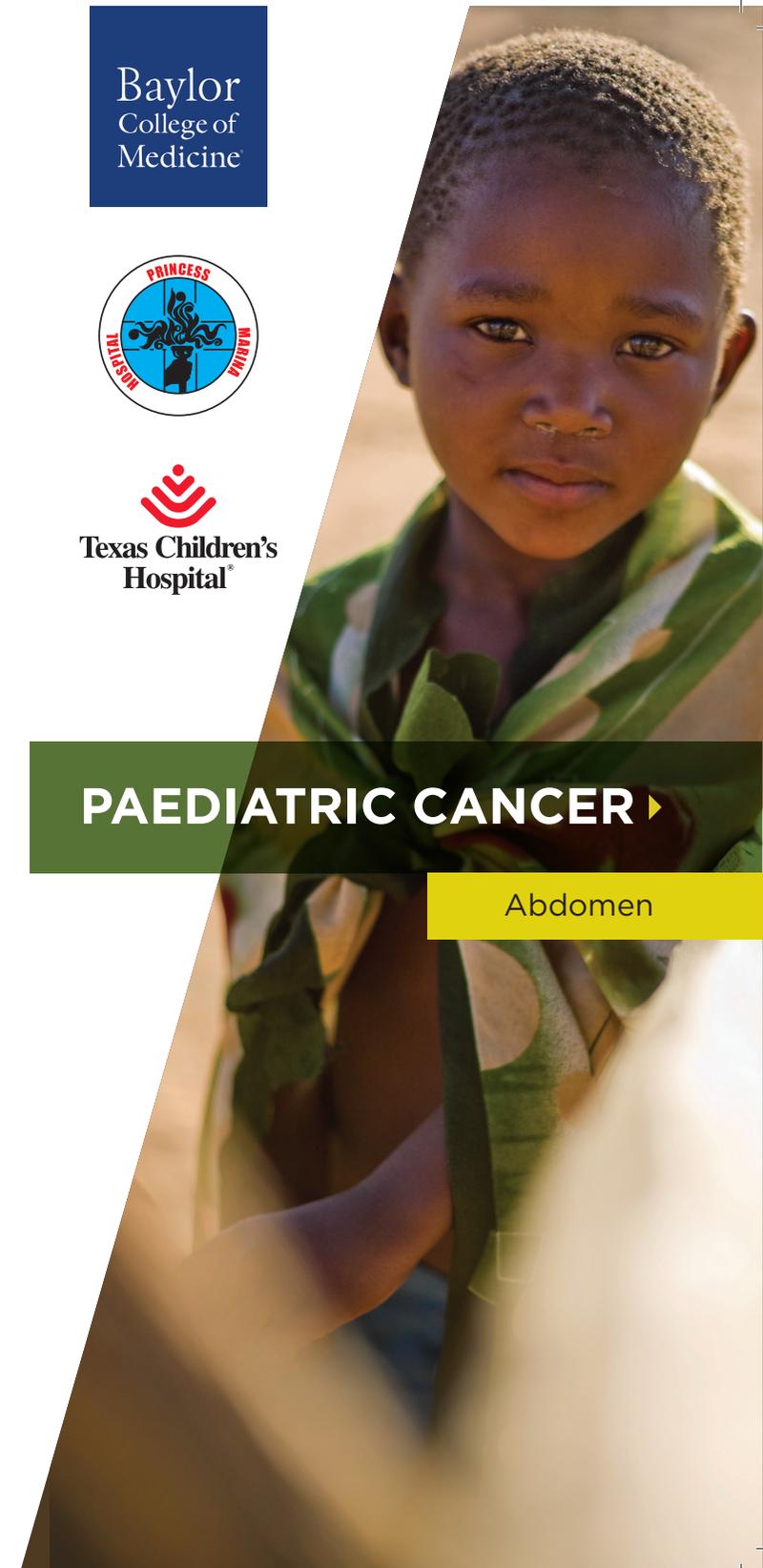
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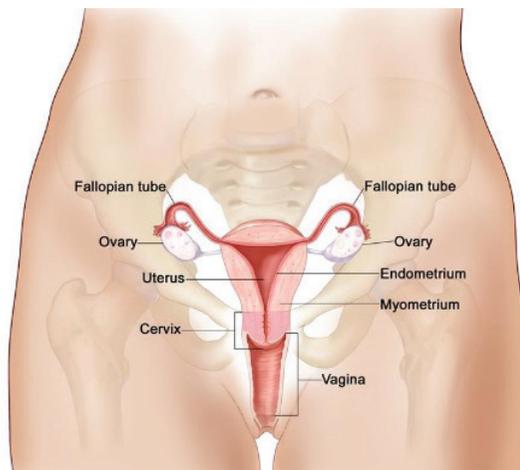


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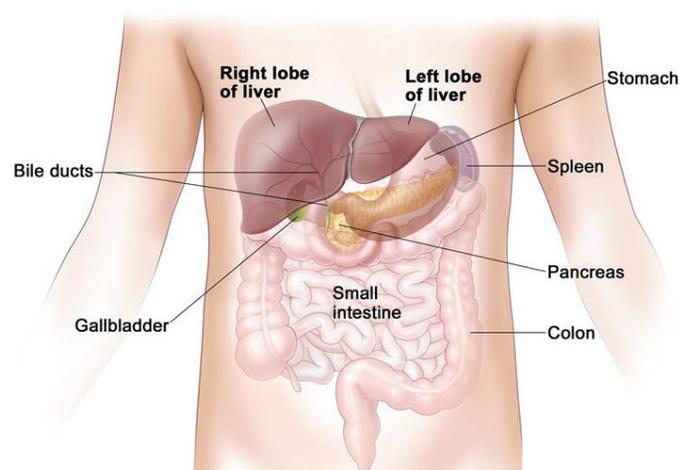
PAEDIATRIC CANCER ▶

Abdomen

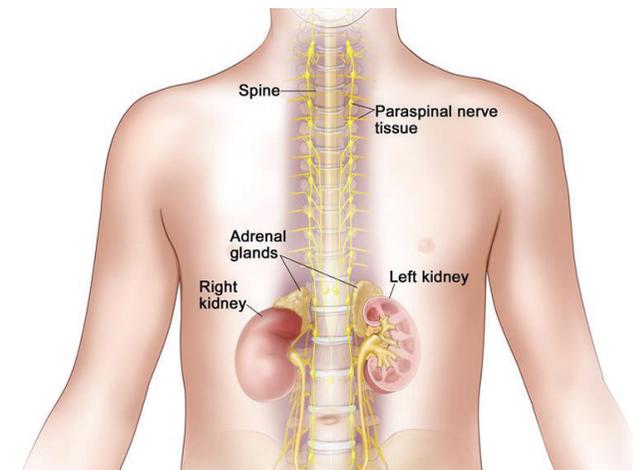




Female Reproductive System

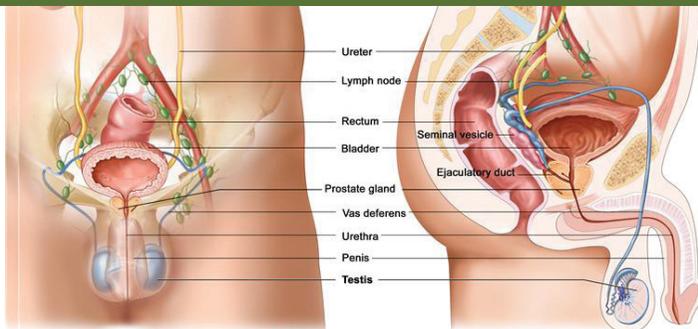


Liver & Abdominal Organs



Kidneys & Sympathetic Nervous System

## CANCERS OF THE ABDOMEN (BELLY) ▾



Male Reproductive System

### GERM CELL TUMOURS

**Germ cell tumours account for 4% of paediatric cancer** and originate from a type of cell that later becomes sperm in the testicles of boys and eggs in the ovaries of girls. These tumours develop before or after birth usually in the gonads (testicles/ovaries), but can develop in the abdomen and pelvis, chest and sometimes the brain. Germ cell tumours can occur in infants, children and teens.

#### Symptoms

- A lump in the abdomen or lower back
- Pain in the abdomen
- Constipation
- A painless lump in the scrotum (skin that holds the testicle)
- Fever
- Chest pain/wheezing/shortness of breath
- In females: no menstrual periods or unusual vaginal bleeding

### HEPATOBLASTOMA/HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA (HCC)

**These are types of liver cancer which together accounts for only 1-2% of paediatric cancer.**

Hepatoblastoma usually occurs in children age 2 months to 3 years, while HCC occurs mostly in 10-16 year olds.

#### Symptoms

- Swelling or enlarged abdomen
- Loss of appetite/weight loss
- Nausea and vomiting
- Pain in the abdomen
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin)
- Yellowing of whites of eyes (scleral icterus)

### WILMS TUMOUR

**This is the most common kidney cancer** in children under age 5 and accounts for 3% of all childhood cancers.

#### Symptoms

- A lump or mass in the abdomen
- Pain in the abdomen
- Blood in the urine
- Fever
- Anaemia
- Shortness of breath

### NEUROBLASTOMA

**This type of cancer is the most common extra-cranial (outside the brain) solid tumour in children.** It accounts for 5% of paediatric cancer cases. It often originates in the adrenal glands on top of the kidneys, but it can begin anywhere in the body (such as chest, neck & pelvis). It is a cancer of the sympathetic nervous system, a nerve network in the body that carries messages from the brain to control the body's internal organs.

#### Symptoms

- Abdominal swelling, constipation, or trouble urinating if the tumour is in the abdomen
- Bone pain
- Fatigue
- A lump in the chest, head or neck
- Dark circles around the eyes "black eyes"
- Drooping of the eyelid, a small pupil, and lack of sweating
- Diarrhoea