

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!**

BRAIN, HEAD & NECK CANCERS NEED TO BE TREATED RIGHT AWAY

If you think your child might have a brain tumour, retinoblastoma or rhabdomyosarcoma, your child's doctor should consider the following based upon findings:

- Physical exam and identification of abnormal findings
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan is preferred or Computed Tomography (CT) scan of head, brain, and/or orbits
- Biopsy of mass

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

Telephone
72259379

E-mail
BotswanaHOPE@txch.org

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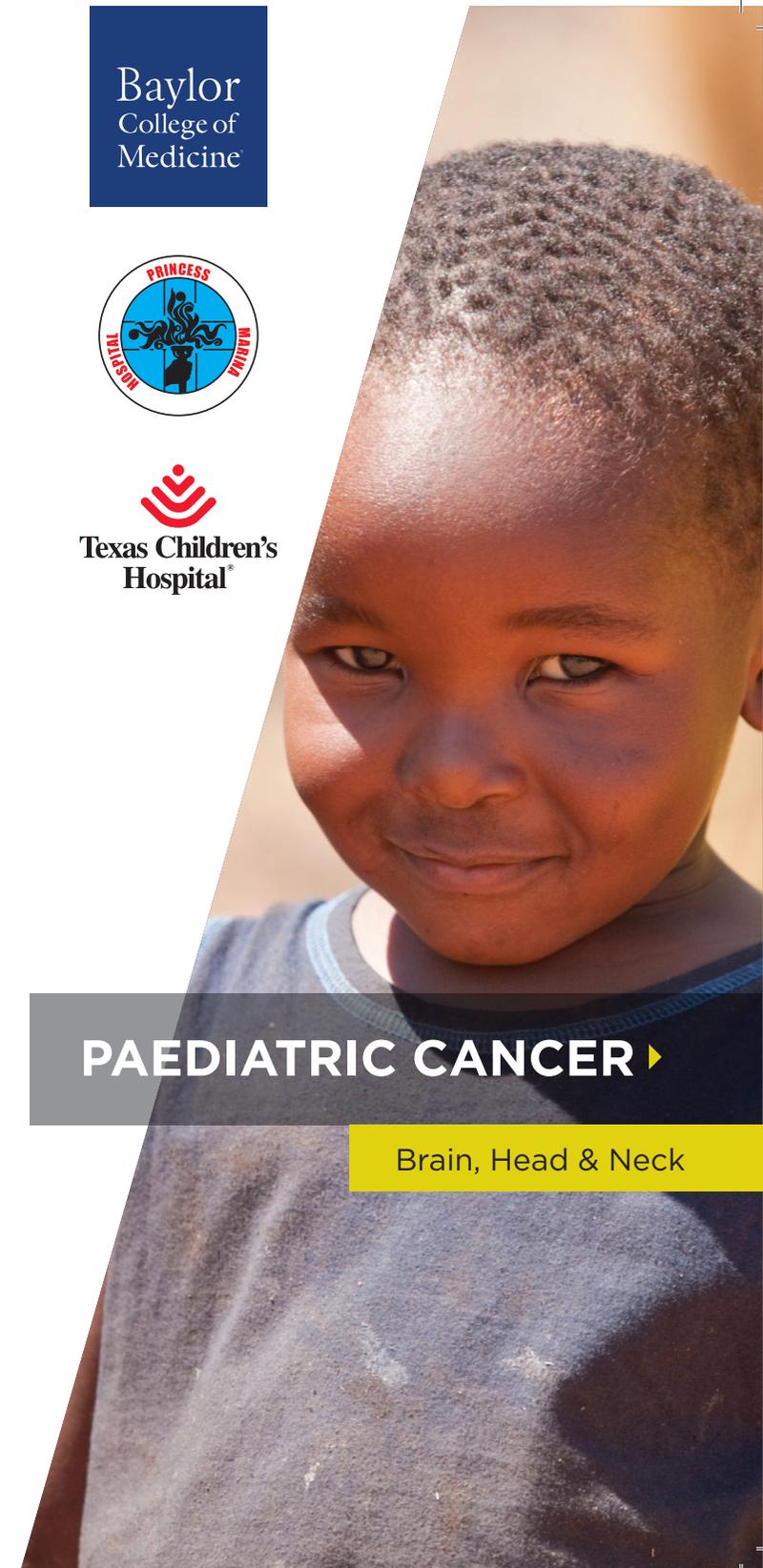
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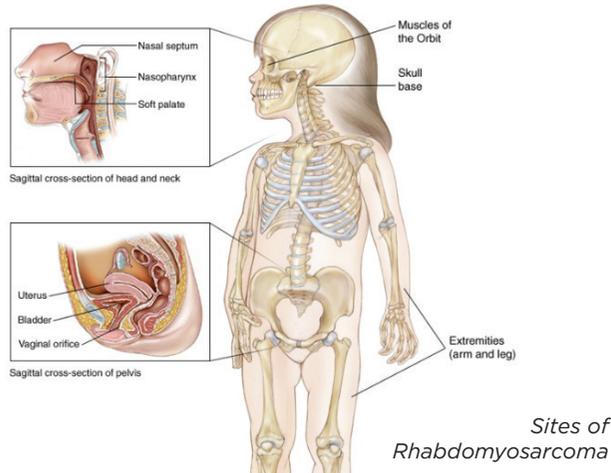
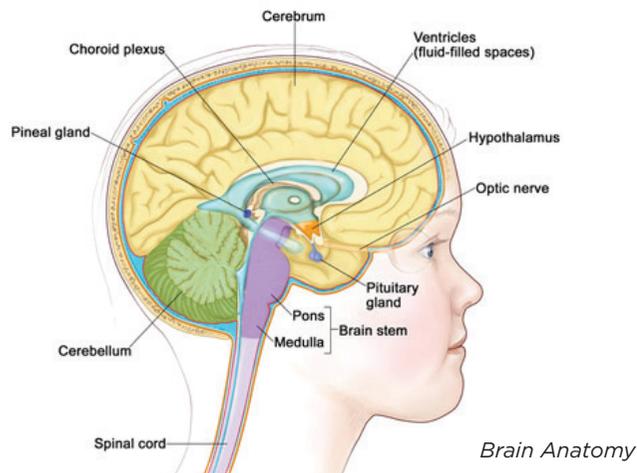



Texas Children's
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PAEDIATRIC CANCER ▶

Brain, Head & Neck





CANCERS OF THE BRAIN, HEAD & NECK ▼

BRAIN TUMOURS

Brain tumours are not a single kind of tumour, but include several tumour types. After leukaemia and lymphoma, **brain tumours are the third most common childhood cancer.**

They can occur in the central nervous system (CNS) and spinal cord. Together, the CNS & spinal cord sustain life processes such as: breathing, heart rate, movement, thinking and learning.

Symptoms

- Headaches (frequent, recurrent), especially after waking up in the morning
- Vomiting, especially in the morning upon waking
- Eye movement problems and/or vision changes
- Bulging soft spot on infant's head or increased head size in infants
- Weakness of one side of the face
- Tilting of the head or neck to one side
- Unsteady gait or worsening balance
- Loss of previously acquired developmental milestones
- Weakness in the arms or legs or trouble walking
- Seizures
- Difficulty with speech, swallowing or drooling
- Back or neck pain, often awakening the child at night
- Change in bowel habits or trouble urinating

▶ In new onset headaches, dizziness, and/or vomiting, a brain tumour should be considered.

RHABDOMYOSARCOMA

A cancer of the soft/connective tissue. Most common sites where it occurs are around the eye, base of the skull, and head/neck (plus arms/legs & urinary/reproductive organs).

Symptoms

- A lump or swelling that keeps getting bigger & does not go away
- The lump may be painful
- Bulging of the eye or facial changes
- Headache
- Trouble urinating or having bowel movements
- Blood in urine
- Bleeding in the nose, throat, vagina or rectum

RETINOBLASTOMA

A rare tumour that originates in the retina, a thin layer of nerve tissue that covers the back of the eye, allowing a person to see. This tumour occurs most often in children under age 5.

Doctors usually identify retinoblastoma on a routine well-baby exam.

Symptoms

- A pupil that looks white or yellow especially in bright light or in photographs
- A crossed eye (looking either toward the nose or toward the ear)
- Poor vision
- A red, painful eye
- An enlarged pupil
- Differently colored irises

