



# Paediatric Malignancies

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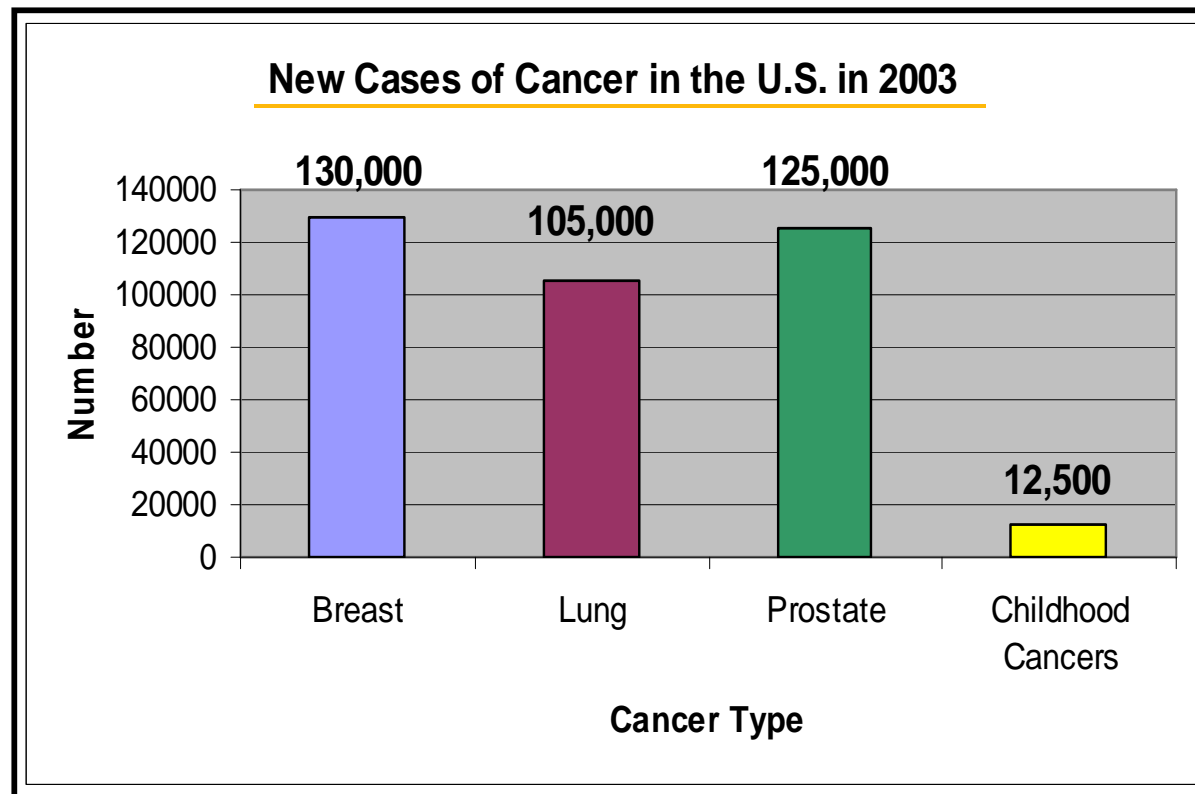
Anatomical Pathology Discipline



**University of Papua New Guinea  
School of Medicine & Health Sciences  
Division of Pathology**

# First Take Home point

- Childhood Cancer is a rare disease...



# **BUT...**

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- **One in every 330 Americans develops cancer before age 20.**
- **1 in 750 20-year-olds alive in the U.S. today is a survivor of childhood cancer.**

## **More Statistics**

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**\* Over 3,000 children die from cancer yearly in the U.S.**

- More than from AIDS, asthma, diabetes, and cystic fibrosis combined

**Earlier diagnosis and referral can impact outcome**

# PNG Picture

TABLE 1

DIAGNOSIS OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER AT PORT MORESBY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Diagnosis	Number (%)
Lymphoma	19 (30)
Burkitt's	11 (17)
Non-Hodgkin's	6 (9)
Hodgkin's	2 (3)
Leukaemia	19 (30)
Acute myeloblastic	11 (17)
Acute lymphoblastic	4 (6)
Chronic myelocytic	4 (6)
CNS tumours	5 (8)
Neuroblastoma	5 (8)
Retinoblastoma	6 (9)
Wilm's tumour	5 (8)
Rhabdomyosarcoma	2 (3)
Ewing's sarcoma	1 (2)
Pheochromocytoma	1 (2)
Craniopharyngioma	1 (2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

CNS = central nervous system

Kiromat et al 2002; PNG Med J

# Outcome of Cancer Treatment in PNG

OUTCOME BY DIAGNOSIS IN CANCER PATIENTS TREATED IN PORT MORESBY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Diagnosis	No	Treated	Remission	On treatment	Died	Lost
Wilm's tumour	5	5	2	0	3	0
Burkitt's lymphoma	11	10	3	0	6	2
Retinoblastoma	6	6	0	0	5	1
CNS tumours	5	0	0	0	5	0
Phaeochromocytoma	1	0	0	0	1	0
Craniopharyngioma	1	0	0	0	1	0
Rhabdomyosarcoma	2	2	0	0	1	1
Ewing's sarcoma	1	1	0	0	1	0
Neuroblastoma	5	3	0	0	4	1
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	5	4	0	0	4	1
Hodgkin's lymphoma	1	1	1	0	0	0
ALL	4	2	1	0	3	0
AML	11	0	0	0	11	0
CML	4	4	0	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6</b>

CNS = central nervous system  
 ALL = acute lymphoblastic leukaemia  
 AML = acute myeloblastic leukaemia  
 CML = chronic myelocytic leukaemia

76% mortality & 11% remission

...

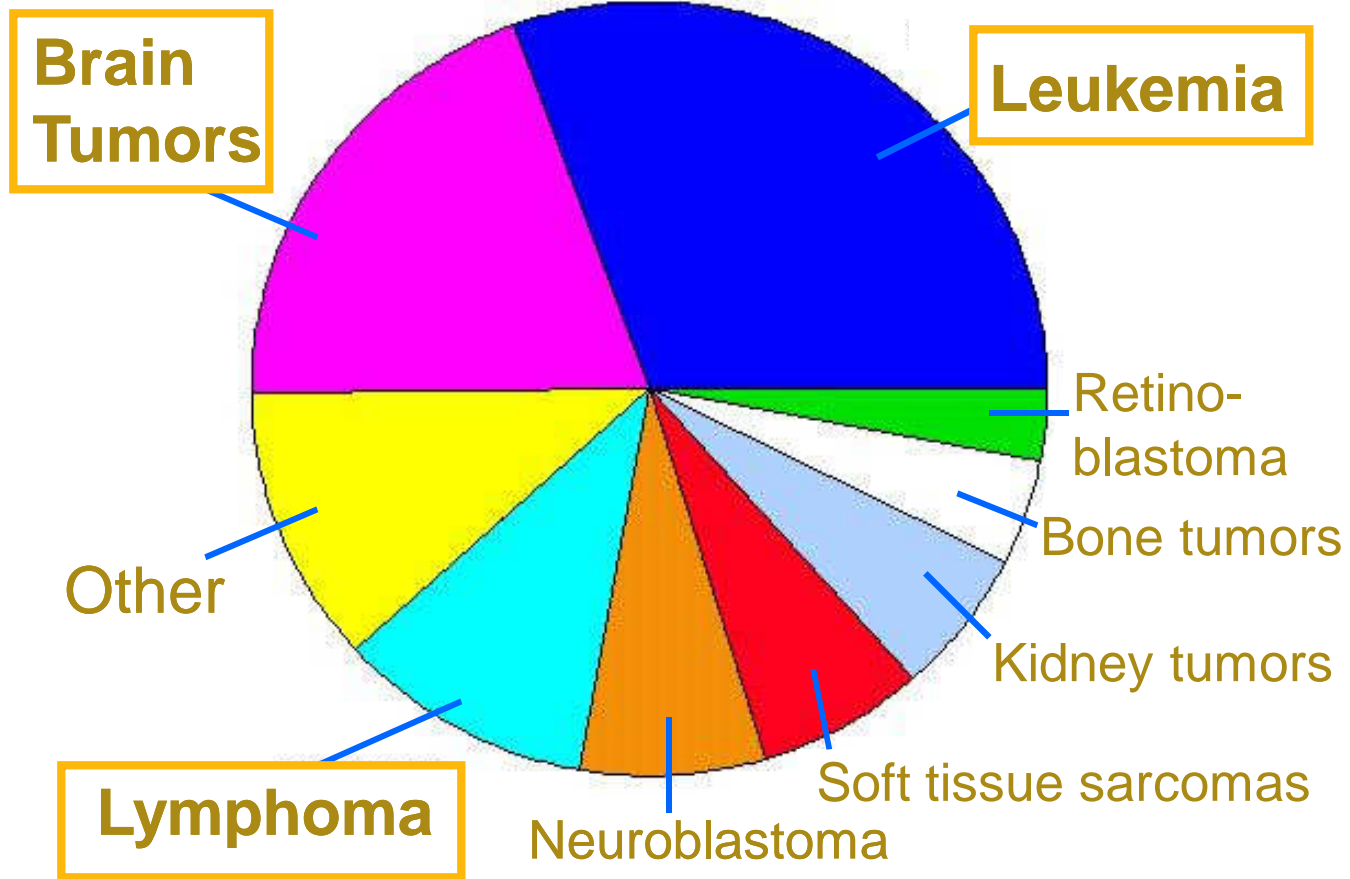
Kiromat et al 2002; PNG Med J



## Second Take Home points...

- Leukemia is the most common childhood cancer
- Brain tumors are second most common
- Lymphomas are the third most common
- Then solid tumors outside the CNS
  - Neuroblastoma - neural crest derived
  - Wilms - renal tumors and syndromes
  - Bone tumors
  - Rhabdomyosarcoma - soft tissue sarcomas

# Childhood Cancers







# Pediatric Malignancies

- 1% of all cancers
- Involves tissues of:  
CNS, bone, muscle, endothelial tissue
- Grows in a short period of time



## Causes

- Genetic alteration
- Environmental influences
- Metastatic disease seen in 80%



## Response to Treatment

- Very responsive to chemotherapy
- More than 60% cure rate
- Cure rate in PNG - ? <20%.



# Classification of Tumors

- Embryonal tumor arises from embryonic tissue
- Lymphomas = lymphatic tissue
- Leukemias = blood
- Sarcoma = seen in bone, cartilage, nerve and fat



## Cardinal Signs of Cancer

- Unusual mass or swelling
- Unexplained paleness and loss of energy
- Spontaneous bruising
- Prolonged, unexplained fever
- Headaches in morning
- Sudden eye or vision changes
- Excessive – rapid weight loss.



# Diagnostic Tests

- X-ray
- Skeletal survey
- CT scan
- Ultrasound
- MRI
- Bone marrow aspiration



# Biopsy

- Identify cell to determine type of treatment



# Treatment Modalities

- Determined by:
  - Type of cancer
  - Location
  - Extent of disease





# Malignant Tumours

- Cancers in infants & childhood differ biologically & histologically from their counterparts occurring in adults.
- 1-2% of all malignant tumours occur in childhood.
- Leukaemia is the leading cause of death in US in children 4 -14 years of age.
- In children 4 -14 years age, malignant disease accounts for 9% of all deaths, behind accidents.
- **However, benign tumours more commoner.**

# Common Malignant Neoplasm in Childhood

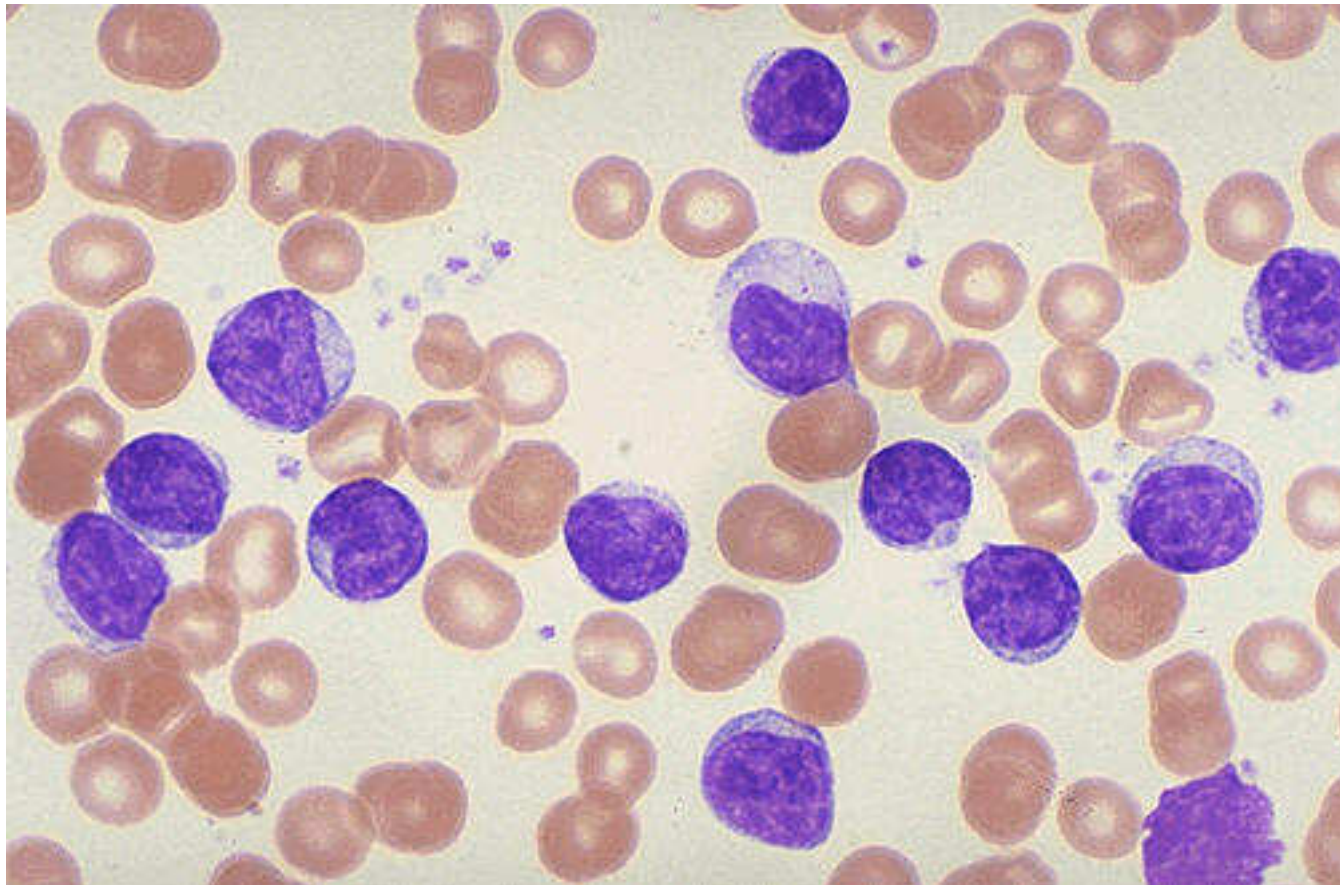
0 – 4 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years
Leukemia	Leukemia	Hepatocarcinoma
Retinoblastoma	Retinoblastoma	Soft tissue sarcoma
Neuroblastoma	Neuroblastoma	Osteogenic sarcoma
Wilm's tumour	Hepatocarcinoma	Thyroid carcinoma
Hepatoblastoma	Soft tissue sarcoma	Hodgkin disease
Soft tissue sarcoma (esp. Rhabdomyosarcoma)	CNS tumours	
Teratomas & CNS tumours	Ewing sarcoma & Lymphoma	

Leukaemia alone accounts for more deaths in children young than 15 years of age than all other tumors collectively.



# Leukemias

# Peripheral smear show lymphoBLASTS



# Bone marrow



# Leukemia: Signs and Symptoms

- **Bone marrow infiltration**

- **Anemia**

- Pallor, lethargy
- Dyspnea, ↑murmur

- **↓ Platelets**

- Bleeding, petechiae, purpura

- **Neutropenia**

- Fevers and infections

- **Bone pain**

- Limp, ↓ walking, irritability



# Leukemia: Signs and Symptoms

- **Extramedullary spread**
  - Lymphadenopathy
  - Hepatosplenomegaly
  - Orthopnea, cough
    - mediastinal mass
    - tracheal compression
  - Facial nerve palsy
  - Testicular enlargement
  - Skin lesions
  - Gingival hypertrophy
- **Fever of malignancy**



Monoblastic leukemia

# CBC and Differential

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**Very helpful in the diagnosis ALL**

**↑ WBC** - 50%; nl or ↓ WBC - 50%

**+ blasts** on smear in 80%

**≥ 2 Cytopenias** - 95%

↓ Hgb - 80%   ↓ Plts - 90%

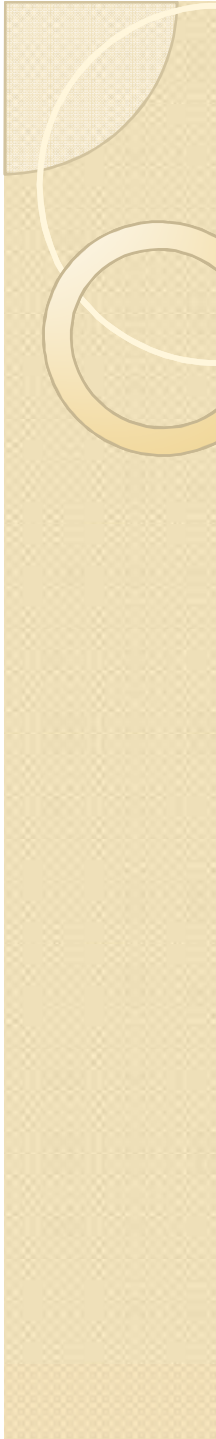
↓ % Neutrophils - 90%

**1 Cytopenia** - 4%

**Normal CBC and diff** - 1%

**Bone Marrow Biopsy for confirmation**





# CNS Tumors

# Brain Tumors of Childhood

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## Heterogeneous

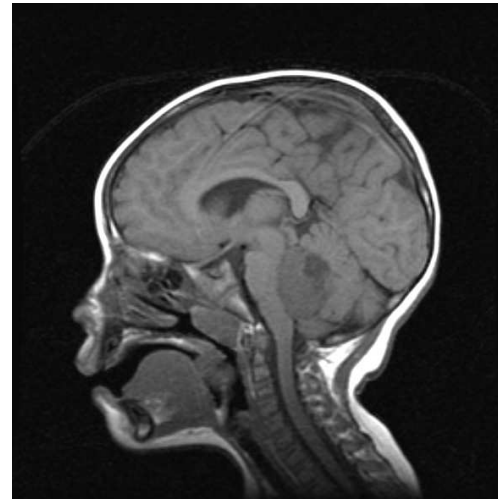
- \* Cell of origin:
  - glial, neural, other, combination
- \* Location:
  - posterior fossa: 50%
  - supratentorial: 50%
- \* Clinical presentation:
  - **location**
  - **age**

# Brain Tumors of Childhood

- **Infratentorial**

50%

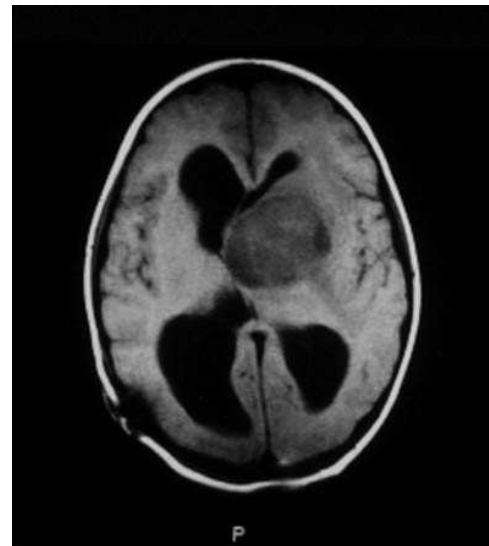
esp < 6 y/o



- **Supratentorial**

50%

esp > 8 y/o



## Nonlocalizing Signs of Brain Tumors

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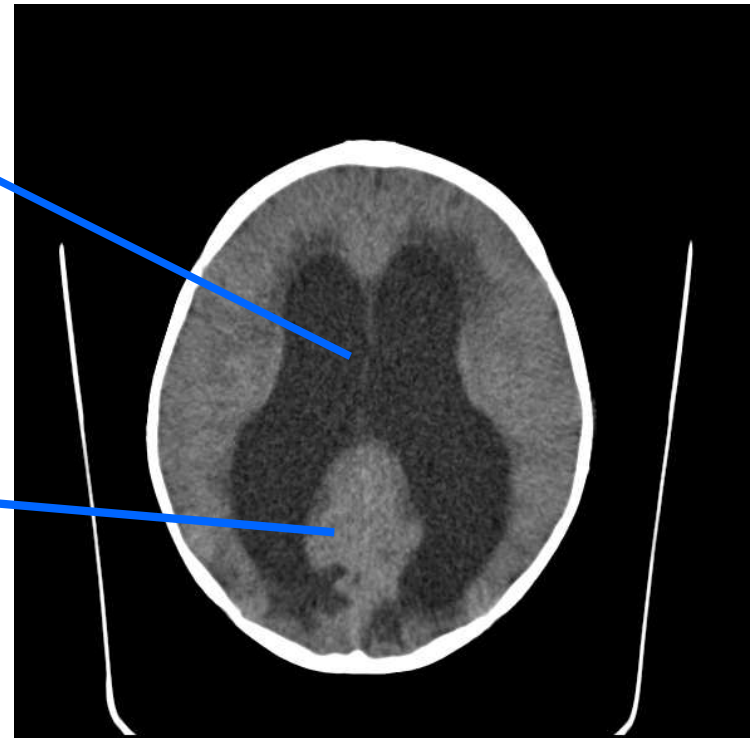
### Increased intracranial pressure (ICP)

#### Obstructed CSF flow and hydrocephalus

Child is often asymptomatic  
until critical threshold  
reached

#### Medulloblastoma

Can grow very large  
before detection



# Increased Intracranial Pressure (ICP)

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- **Headaches, progressively worsening**
- **Vomiting (morning)**
- **Irritability**
- **Papilledema**
  - rare < 2 y/o - head can expand
- **“Double vision” with 6<sup>th</sup> nerve palsy**
- **Head tilt**
- **Bulging fontanel (infant)**

**In a young child with ? brain tumor:  
Measure head circumference and observe gait**



# Supratentorial Tumors

## **Signs depend on location and age**

like in adults; in addition:

### **Younger child:**

Developmental delay or loss of milestones

### **Older child:**

Deteriorating school performance

Personality changes

### **Endocrinopathies:**

DI, hypothyroidism, precocious puberty



# Neuroblastoma & Ganglioneuroma

- Pathogenesis: N-myc gene (a proto-oncogene) amplification. The number of copies is related to the aggressiveness of the tumor.
- Catecholamine producing tumor thus urinary catecholamines and metabolites are same as pheochromocytoma.
- Hypertension is a common feature.
- 40% originates in the adrenal medulla and presents as a large abdominal mass. Rest occur along sympathetic chain – paravertebral region of abdomen 25% & posterior mediastinum 15%.
- Occasionally converts to a more differentiated form termed ganglioneuroma (benign form) and reflects reduction in number of copies of N-myc gene products.



# Retinoblastoma

- Intraocular / Embryonic tumor
- 1 in 16,000
- + family history
- High incidence of malignancies





# Retinoblastoma

- Malignant retinal tumor
- Sporadic in 60% of cases; unilateral & monocentric in origin
- Familial in 40% of cases; bilateral & multicentric in origin
- Pathogenesis: homozygous deletion of the Rb gene, a tumor suppressor gene (chromosome 13 at band q14).

# Retinoblastoma



Pupil reflex

“Cat Eyes”

<http://www.djo.harvard.edu/meei/PI/RB/RB.html>

# Retinoblastoma



<http://homepage.idx.com.au/muznsam/>



# Lymphomas



# Lymphoma

- Generally classified into Hodgkin lymphoma and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Affects children between 4-9 yrs of age.
- Clinical cure is possible with aggressive therapy.
- Reed-Sternberg cells are the defining characteristic feature. Severity of the disease is directly proportional to the number of RS cells.



# Non-Hodgkin lymphoma

- Heterogeneous group of lymph node neoplasm originating from B & T lymphocyte.
- Sites: lymph node, BM, spleen or extranodal tissue (e.g. GIT – MALT).
- Multiple lymph nodes (migratory nature of lymphocytes). Contrast this with Hodgkin lymphoma.
- Burkitt lymphoma is common in children.
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# Childhood Lymphomas

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- **Signs and Symptoms depend on:**
  - Lymphoma subtype
    - Hodgkin's Disease (HD)
    - Nonhodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)
      - \* **Burkitt's**
      - \* **Lymphoblastic**
      - \* **Anaplastic Large Cell**

# Presentation of Hodgkin's Disease

- **Age:** adolescents >> young child
- Painless lymphadenopathy
  - Progresses over weeks → months
- **Location**
  - **Cervical/supraclavicular ↑ LNS**
    - unilateral or bilateral
  - **Mediastinum ± hilum**
  - LNs below diaphragm and spleen
  - Liver, lung, bone marrow



} 95%



# Presentation of Hodgkin's Disease

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- Systemic symptoms

- Fevers
- Night sweats
- Weight loss
- Pruritus

} **“B” symptoms**  
25%

- Superior Mediastinal Syndrome (SMS)

– Orthopnea, SOB, stridor, hypoxia

- Tracheal
- Bronchial
- Cardiac

} compression

**= Oncologic Emergency**



**What is the Test to get?**

## HD in 16 y/o girl

↑ left cervical LNs, 40  
# wt loss  
cough, no orthopnea



## HD in 9 y/o boy

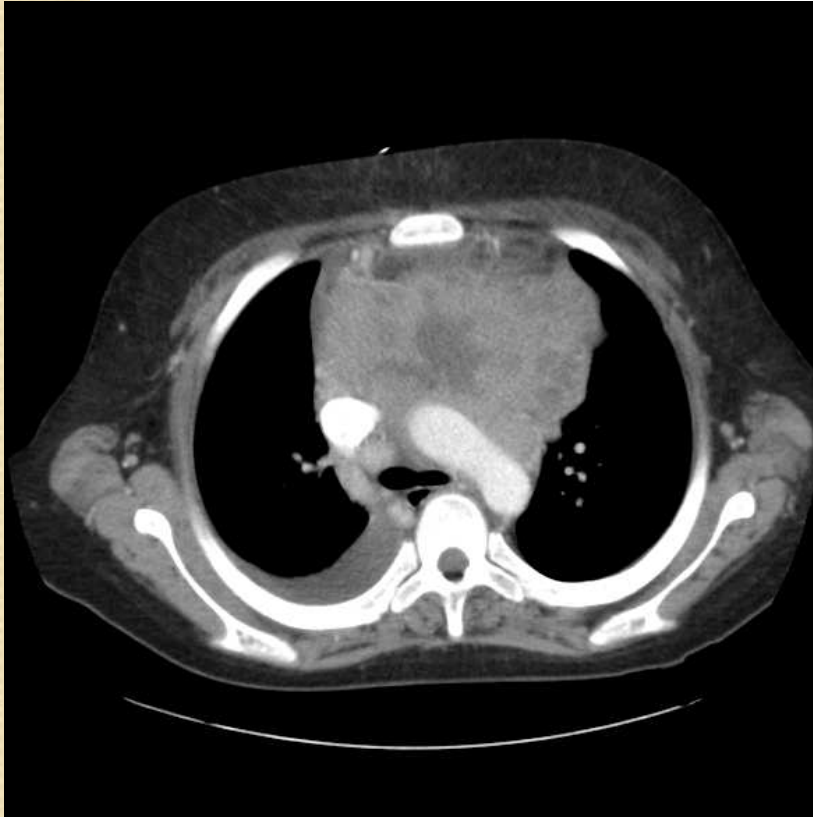
cough, fever, night sweats  
Pruritus shins, + orthopnea



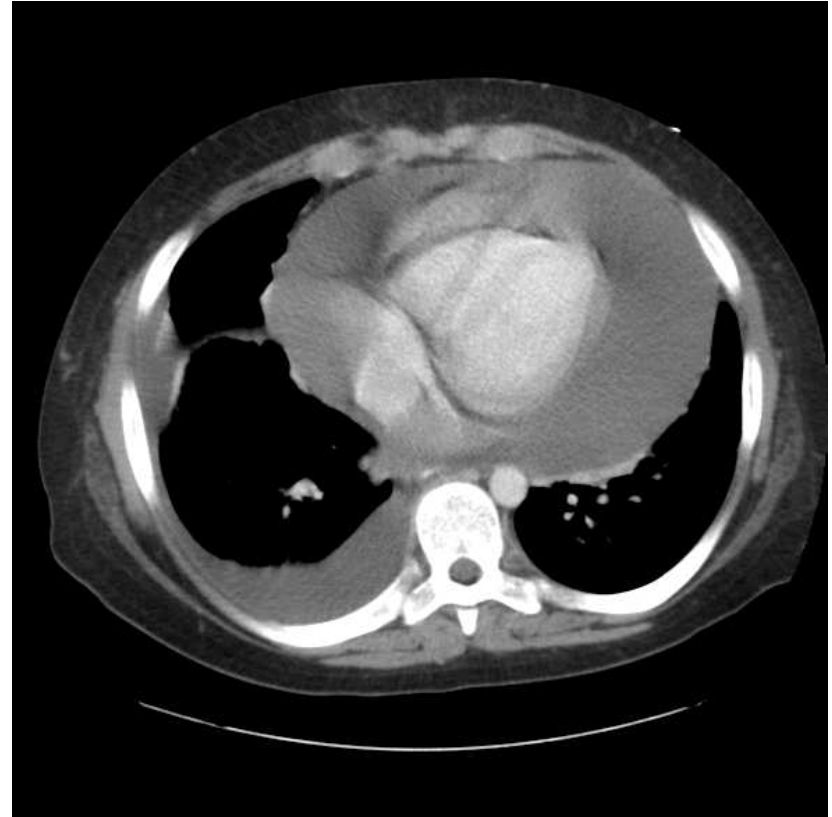
**Superior Mediastinal Syndrome (SMS)**  
**= Oncologic Emergency**

## HD – 9 y/o CT scan with SMS

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**Ant. mediastinal mass  
compressing trachea;  
Pleural effusion**



**Pericardial effusion  
with tamponade**

# Superior Vena Cava (SVC) Syndrome in 10 y/o with Lymphoblastic Lymphoma

Facial swelling, plethora, cyanosis, □ neck veins

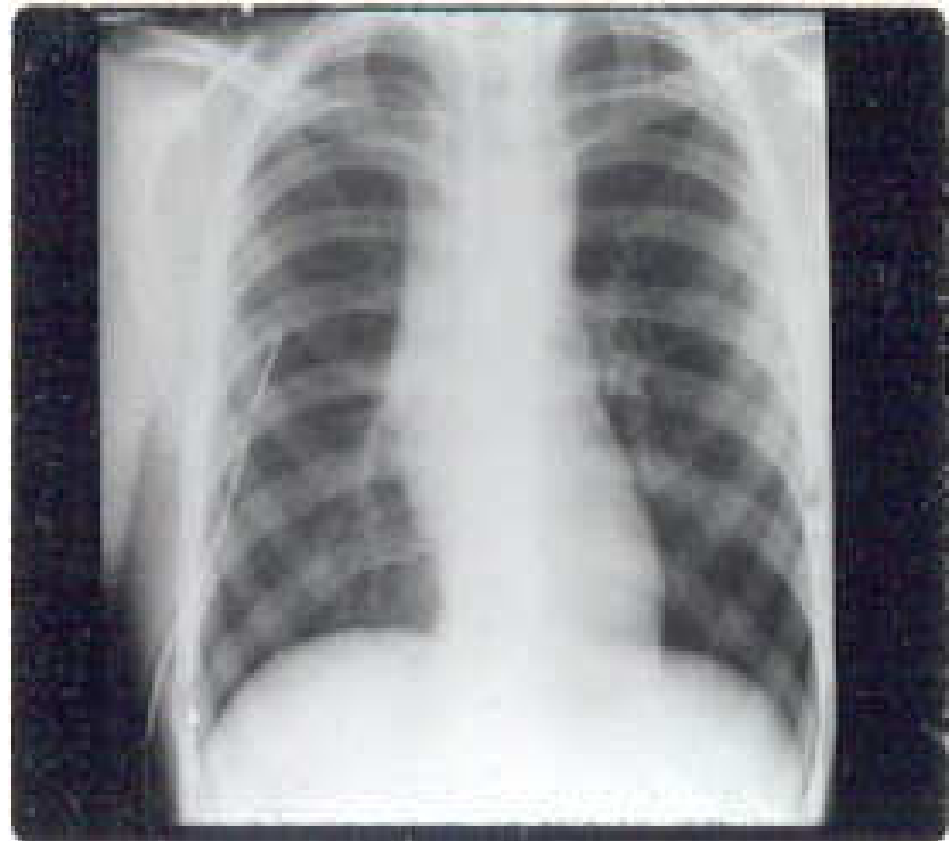


Mediastinal mass: tracheal and SVC compression

## Lymphoblastic Lymphoma (T-cell, thymus)

**Same boy 1 week after initial treatment**

- rapid onset
- rapid response



# Burkitt's Lymphoma

- **B-cell origin**
- **> 5 y/o**
- **Abdominal mass**
  - Large mass +  LNs
  - Cecum or appendix
- **Nasopharynx**
- **Tumor lysis syndrome**
  - Uric acid, phosphorus, creatinine
  - Treatment can precipitate renal failure

**= Oncologic Emergency**





# Tests

- FBC
- FNAC
- Lymph node biospy





# Other Abdominal Tumors

# Malignant Abdominal Masses

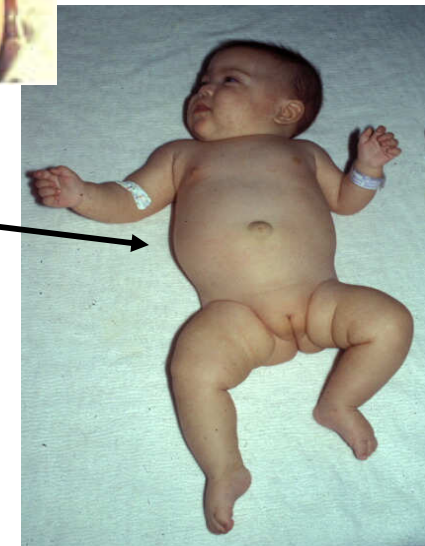
## Most common:

- Burkitt's lymphoma
- Neuroblastoma
- Wilms Tumor



## Other:

- Hepatoblastoma
- Rhabdomyosarcoma
  - pelvic
- Ovarian germ cell tumors
  - pelvic



# Neuroblastoma

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- **Age**
  - 90% < 5 y/o; 50% < 2 y/o
  - Occasional USG detection *in utero*
- **Location: any neural crest tissue**
  - Adrenal
  - Paraspinal sympathetic tissue
    - Cervical, Thoracic, Pelvic
- **Often metastatic at diagnosis**
  - Bone and/or bone marrow
    - > 1 y/o: 70%

# Neuroblastoma: Signs and Symptoms

- **Abdominal mass**
  - Often crosses midline
- **Lower extremity weakness**
  - Spinal cord compression
    - Thoracic
    - abdominal
- **Cervical, high thoracic mass**
  - Horner's syndrome
    - Miosis, ptosis, anhidrosis



## Neuroblastoma: Signs and Symptoms

- Signs of metastatic disease

- Irritability
- Weight loss
- Bone pain
- Fever
- Proptosis
- Bone lesions
- Periorbital ecchymoses



## More Periorbital Ecchymoses of Neuroblastoma



**13 months old  
at diagnosis**



**1 month into  
therapy**

# Neuroblastoma: Signs and Symptoms

- **Paraneoplastic syndromes**
  - Watery diarrhea – Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide
  - Opsoclonus-myoclonus, cerebellar ataxia
    - Cross-reacting antibodies
- **↑ Urinary catecholamines**
  - VMA/HVA – 85%
- **↑ BP – 25%**
  - Renal compression
  - Catecholamine secretion



TABLE 10-11 -- Prognostic Factors in Neuroblastomas

Variable	Favorable	Unfavorable
<i>Stage</i> *	Stage 1, 2A, 2B, 4S	Stage 3, 4
<i>Age</i> *	≤ 1 year	>1 year
<i>Histology</i> *		
••Evidence of schwannian stroma and gangliocytic differentiation <sup>a</sup>	Present	Absent
••Mitotic rate <sup>b</sup>	Low	High
••Mitosis-karyorrhexis index <sup>c</sup>	≤200/5000 cells	>200/5000 cells
••Intratumoral calcification	Present	Absent
<i>DNA ploidy</i> *	Hyperdiploid or near-triploid	Diploid, near-diploid, or near-tetraploid
<i>N-myc</i> *	Not amplified	Amplified
<i>Chromosome 17q Gain</i>	Absent	Present
<i>Chromosome 1p Loss</i>	Absent	Present
<i>Trk-A Expression</i>	Present	Absent
<i>Telomerase Expression</i>	Low or absent	Highly expressed
<i>MRP Expression</i>	Absent	Present
<i>CD44 Expression</i>	Present	Absent
<b>Serum Biochemical Markers</b>		
••Ferritin	Normal	Elevated
••Lactate Dehydrogenase	≤1500 U/mL	> 1500 U/mL

*Trk-A*, tyrosine kinase receptor A; *MRP*, multidrug resistance-associated protein.

\*Corresponds to the most commonly used parameters in clinical practice for assessment of prognosis and risk stratification.

<sup>a</sup> It is not only the presence but also the *amount* of schwannian stroma that confers the designation of a favorable histology. At least 50% or more schwannian stroma is required before a neoplasm can be classified as ganglioneuroblastoma or ganglioneuroma.

<sup>b</sup> Mitotic rate is classified as *low* (≤10 mitoses/10 high power fields) or *high* (>10 mitoses/10 high power fields).

<sup>c</sup> Mitotic karyorrhexis index (MKI) is defined as the number of mitotic or karyorrhectic cells per 5000 tumor cells in random foci.





## Wilms Tumor (Nephroblastoma)

- Common tumor in children.
- Malignant tumor originating from renal (metanephric) blastema (nephrons); One of two embryological structures giving rise to kidneys. Other being ureteric bud (collecting ducts).
- Peaks between 1-4 yrs.
- 5 year survival rate of 90% (surgery & chemotherapy).
- Commonly presents as an abdominal mass (can be mistaken for enlarged spleen)
- Pathogenesis: deletions of WT-1 & WT-2 genes on the short arm of chromosome 11. These are tumor suppressor genes.

# Wilms tumor: Signs and Symptoms

- **Abdominal mass**
  - Often asymptomatic
  - Healthy appearing

2 days  
before  
dx



Encapsulated  
mass

## Wilms tumor: Signs and Symptoms

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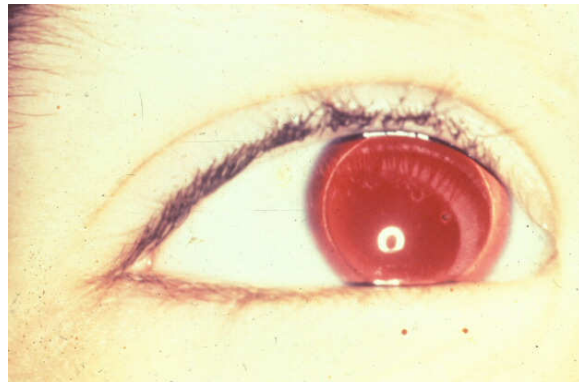
**Mass enlarges toward pelvis**



# Signs and Symptoms of Wilms tumor

- **Associated anomalies, syndromes – 15%**

- Hemihypertrophy
- Aniridia



- WAGR syndrome
  - Wilms, aniridia, ambiguous genitalia, retardation



# Signs and Symptoms of Wilms tumor

- **More anomalies, syndromes**
  - GU anomalies
  - Denys-Drash syndrome
    - GU anomalies and renal failure
  - Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome

Hypoglycemia

Macroglossia



Umbilical hernia

Hemihypertrophy



# Bone tumors

# Bone Tumors in Childhood

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- **Age** – Adolescents > younger children
- Signs and symptoms
  - **Bone pain**, □ palpable mass, □ □ motion
    - Often hx of sports injury (coincidental)

## Osteogenic Sarcoma

Metaphyses of long bones:

**Distal femur**

Proximal tibia

Proximal humerus

Pelvis

## Ewing Sarcoma

All bones:

Long: diaphyses

Flat

**Pelvis**

Skull

Ribs



## Ewing Sarcoma

- Tumor of flat bones
  - Pelvis, chest, vertebrae
- Rare in children under 5 years
- 75% diagnosed by age 20





## Ewing Sarcoma

- Presents between 5-20 but peaks in boys younger than 15 yrs.
- Histology resembles malignant lymphoma
- Site: diaphysis of long bones, ribs, pelvis and scapula.
- Highly malignant with early metastasis.
- Can mimic osteomyelitis in early stages.
- Tumor extends from medulla through to cortical bone and into subperiosteal space – “onion skin” appearance on x-ray.
- 5 year survival rate of 60% (surgery & chemotherapy).

# Ewing Sarcoma



# Ewing Sarcoma Tumor

Ewing Sarcoma at distal end of the tibia. tumor extends into the soft tissue.



Anderson's Pathology



# Osteogenic Sarcoma

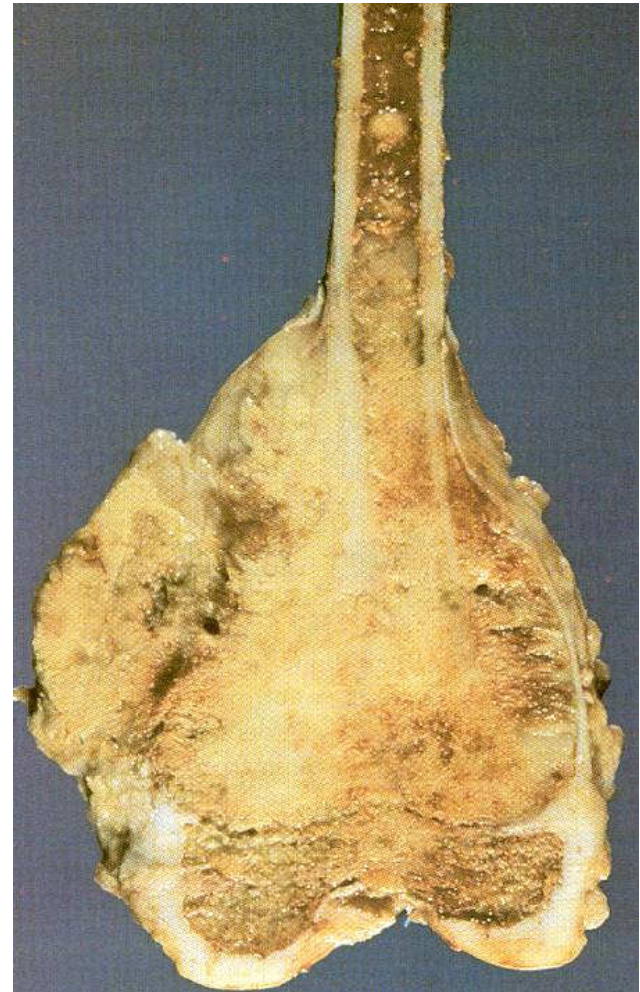
- Malignant tumor of bone
- 400 new cases each year
- Peak incidence is in the second decade of life, when adolescents are gaining vertical height rapidly.
- Approximately 20% have metastases at diagnosis
- **High rate of metastasis to lungs**

# Osteogenic Sarcoma

- Affects ages 10-20 yrs of age.
- Show a predilection for metaphyses of long bones. 60% affects knee.
- X-ray shows “sunburst pattern” & “Codman triangle”. Signs of elevation of periosteum due to subperiosteal new bone formation.
- Surgical & chemotherapy can achieve 60% 5 year survival rate.
- Early metastasis to lungs, liver & brain.
- Can be mistaken for osteomyelitis.
- Can occur following surgical cure of retinoblastoma presumable due to loss of Rb suppressor gene locus on chromosome 13.

# Osteosarcoma Tumor

Femur has a large mass involving the metaphysis of bone. Tumor has destroyed the cortex.

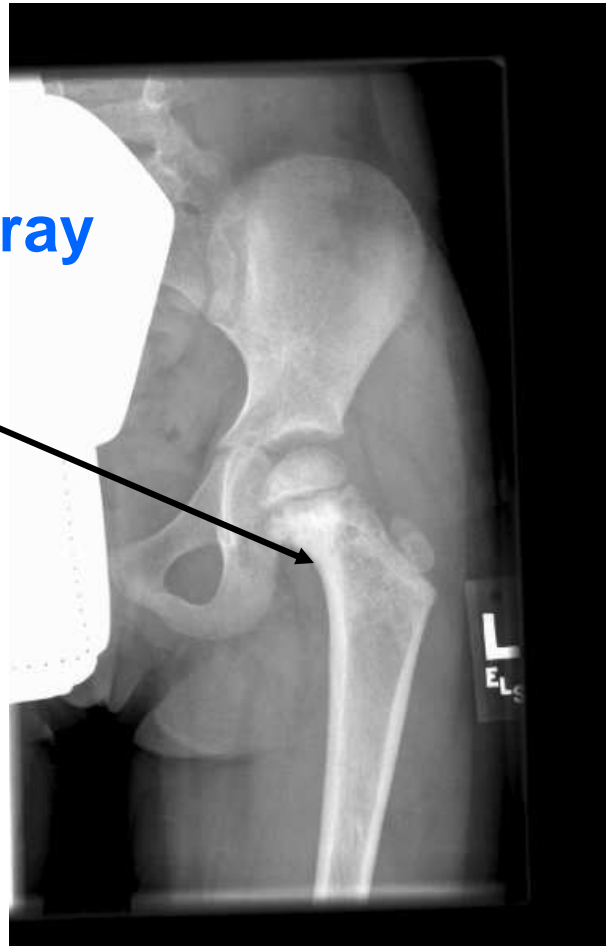


Anderson's Pathology

# Presentation of Bone Tumors

Plain X-Rays are usually abnormal

**Classic X-ray  
of Ewing:  
Moth-eaten  
lytic lesion**



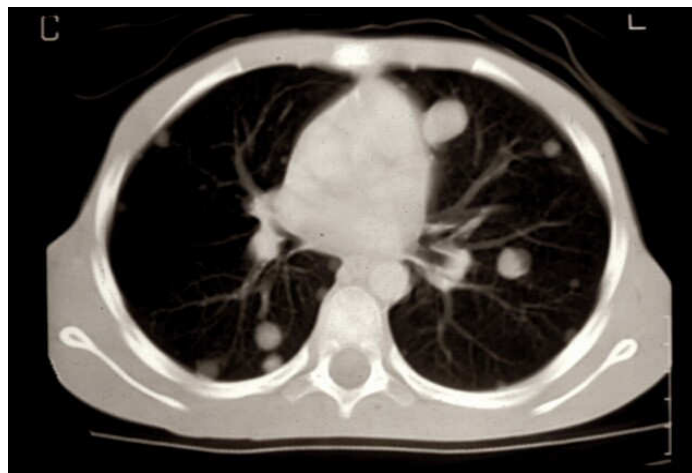
**Classic X-ray of O.S.:**  
“Sunburst pattern”  
Periosteal reaction  
Soft tissue mass + calcium

# Presentation of Bone Tumors

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Further radiographic evaluation may help with differential diagnosis of bone pain

- Bone scan
- MRI
- Chest CT scan
  - Metastases 20%







# Soft tissue sarcomas

# Presentation of Soft Tissue Sarcomas

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- **Rhabdomyosarcoma – most common**

- **Age**

- Birth to > 20 y/o
- 70% < 10 y/o

- **Sites**

- Head and neck – 40%
- Genitourinary – 20%
- Extremities – 20%
- Trunk – 10%
- Retroperitoneal – 10%

**Signs and symptoms depend on age and site**

# Rhabdomyosarcomas: Signs and Symptoms

## Head and neck

### Orbit

- Proptosis
- Periorbital swelling



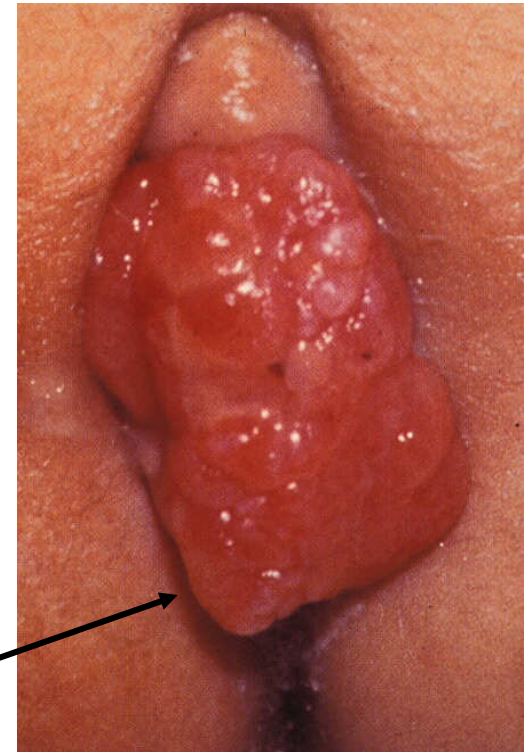
### Parameningeal

- Cranial nerve palsies
- Hearing loss
- Chronic aural or  
sinus drainage



# Rhabdomyosarcomas: Signs and Symptoms

- Genitourinary
  - **Bladder and prostate**
    - Hematuria
    - Urinary obstruction
  - **Paratesticular**
    - Painless mass - ↑ testicle
  - **Vagina and uterus**
    - Abdominal mass
    - Vaginal mass
    - Vaginal bleeding or discharge



Botryoid:  
grape-like

# Rhabdomyosarcoma – other sites

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**Can show up at any site and any age**

6 week old

Newborn

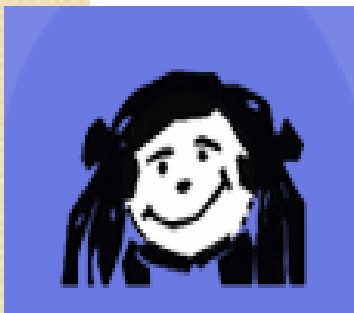


# Concluding Remarks

**Over 70% of children diagnosed with cancer will be cured of their disease.**

- **1 in every 1000 young adults alive in the U.S. today is a survivor of childhood cancer.**

- **Children should be followed throughout adulthood for potential late effects of therapy and second malignancies.**



# END

## References

Robins Pathological Basis of Disease 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.

Bill Chang MD, PhD & Linda Stork MD, Teaching Slides (Internet).

Link below:

[https://www.google.com.pg/search?q=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&oq=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&aqs=chrome..69i57.98l6j0j8&sourceid=chrome&espv=210&es\\_sm=93&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com.pg/search?q=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&oq=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&aqs=chrome..69i57.98l6j0j8&sourceid=chrome&espv=210&es_sm=93&ie=UTF-8)

Jan Bazner-Chandler MSN, Teaching Slides (Internet).

Link below:

[https://www.google.com.pg/search?q=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&oq=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&aqs=chrome..69i57.98l6j0j8&sourceid=chrome&espv=210&es\\_sm=93&ie=UTF-8#es\\_sm=93&espv=210&q=jan+bazner-chandler+pediatric+tumours+ppt&spell=l](https://www.google.com.pg/search?q=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&oq=bill+chang+pediatric+tumours+ppt&aqs=chrome..69i57.98l6j0j8&sourceid=chrome&espv=210&es_sm=93&ie=UTF-8#es_sm=93&espv=210&q=jan+bazner-chandler+pediatric+tumours+ppt&spell=l)

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