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## Types of Cancer that Develop in Children

The types of cancers that occur most often in children are different from those seen in adults.

## Leukemia

Leukemias, which are cancers of the bone marrow and blood, are the most common childhood cancers. The most common types of leukemia in children are acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML). These leukemias can cause bone and joint pain, fatigue, weakness, pale skin, bleeding or bruising, fever, weight loss, and other symptoms. Acute leukemias can grow quickly, so they need to be treated (typically with chemotherapy) as soon as they are found.

For more information, see [Leukemia in Children](#)<sup>1</sup>.

## Brain and spinal cord tumors

Brain and spinal cord tumors are the second most common cancers in children. There are many types of brain and spinal cord tumors, and the treatment and outlook for each is different.

Most brain tumors in children start in the lower parts of the brain, such as the cerebellum or brain stem. They can cause headaches, nausea, vomiting, blurred or double vision, dizziness, seizures, trouble walking or handling objects, and other symptoms. Spinal cord tumors are less common than brain tumors in both children and adults.

For more information, see [Brain and Spinal Cord Tumors in Children](#)<sup>2</sup>.

## Neuroblastoma

Neuroblastoma starts in early forms of nerve cells. This type of cancer develops in infants and young children. It is rare in children older than 10. The tumor can start anywhere, but it usually starts in the belly (abdomen), where it is noticed as swelling. It can also cause other symptoms, like bone pain and fever.

For more information, see [Neuroblastoma](#)<sup>3</sup>.

## Wilms tumor

Wilms tumor (also called **nephroblastoma**) starts in one or, rarely, both kidneys. It is most often found in children about 3 to 4 years old, and it's uncommon in older children and adults. It can show up as a swelling or lump in the belly (abdomen). Sometimes a child might have other symptoms, like fever, pain, nausea, or poor appetite.

For more information, see [Wilms Tumor](#)<sup>4</sup>.

## Lymphomas

Lymphomas start in immune system cells called **lymphocytes**. These cancers most often start in lymph nodes or in other lymph tissues, like the tonsils or thymus. They can also affect the bone marrow and other organs. Symptoms depend on where the cancer starts and can include weight loss, fever, sweats, tiredness (fatigue), and lumps (swollen lymph nodes) under the skin in the neck, armpit, or groin.

The 2 main types of lymphoma are:

- Hodgkin lymphoma (Hodgkin disease)
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Both types occur in children and adults.

**Hodgkin lymphoma** is more common in early adulthood (usually in people in their 20s) and late adulthood (after age 55). Hodgkin lymphoma can also occur in children and teens, although it is rare in children younger than 5 years of age. This type of cancer is very similar in children and adults, including which types of treatment work best.

**Non-Hodgkin lymphoma** is more likely to occur in younger children than Hodgkin lymphoma, but it is still rare in children younger than 3. The most common types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in children are different from those in adults. These cancers often

For more information, see [Rhabdomyosarcoma](#)<sup>7</sup>.

## **Retinoblastoma**

Retinoblastoma is a cancer of the eye. It usually occurs in children around the age of 2, and is seldom found in children older than 6.

Retinoblastomas are usually found because a parent or doctor notices a child's eye

2. [www.cancer.org/cancer/types/brain-spinal-cord-tumors-children.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/brain-spinal-cord-tumors-children.html)
3. [www.cancer.org/cancer/types/neuroblastoma.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/neuroblastoma.html)
4. [www.cancer.org/cancer/types/wilms-tumor.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/wilms-tumor.html)  
[www.cancer.org/cancer/types/childhood-non-hodgkin-lymphoma.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/childhood-non-hodgkin-lymphoma.html)

[us/policies/content-usage.html](#)).

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