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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](#)¹.

For more information, see [Wilms Tumor](#)⁴.

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](#)⁷.

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
3. www.cancer.org/cancer/types/neuroblastoma.html
4. www.cancer.org/cancer/types/wilms-tumor.html
www.cancer.org/cancer/types/childhood-non-hodgkin-lymphoma.html

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

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