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## After Treatment for Childhood Cancer

During cancer treatment, most families are concerned mainly about the daily aspects of getting through treatment and beating the cancer. After treatment, the concerns tend to shift toward the long-term effects of the cancer and its treatment, as well as about the cancer coming back.

It is certainly normal for families to want to put the cancer and its treatment behind them and to get back to a life that doesn't revolve around cancer. But it's important to realize that close follow-up care is a central part of this process that offers children the best chance for recovery and long-term survival.

- [Follow-up care](#)
- [Late and long-term effects of cancer treatment](#)
- [Long-term follow-up guidelines for children with cancer](#)

### Follow-up care

Once treatment is finished, the health care team will set up a follow-up schedule. For many years after treatment, it is very important that children have regular follow-up exams with the cancer care team. As time goes by, the risk of the cancer [coming back](#)<sup>1</sup> goes down. Doctor visits might be needed less often, but they are still important because some side effects of treatment might not show up until years later.

Because of major advances in treatment, more children treated for cancer now survive into adulthood. But treatments might affect children's health later in life, so watching for health effects as they get older has become more of a concern in recent years. The earlier any problems are recognized, the more likely they can be treated effectively.

### Late and long-term effects of cancer treatment



## Hyperlinks

1. [www.cancer.org/cancer/survivorship/long-term-health-concerns/recurrence.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/survivorship/long-term-health-concerns/recurrence.html)
2. [www.cancer.org/cancer.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer.html)
3. [www.survivorshipguidelines.org](http://www.survivorshipguidelines.org)
4. [www.cancer.org/cancer/survivorship/children-with-cancer/late-effects-of-cancer-treatment.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/survivorship/children-with-cancer/late-effects-of-cancer-treatment.html)

## References

Dome JS, Rodriguez-Galindo C, Spunt SL, Santana, VM. Chapter 92: Pediatric Solid Tumors. In: Niederhuber JE, Armitage JO, Doroshow JH, Kastan MB, Tepper JE, eds. *Abeloff's Clinical Oncology*. 6th ed. Philadelphia, Pa: Elsevier; 2020.

National Cancer Institute. Cancer in Children and Adolescents. 2023. Accessed at <https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers/child-adolescent-cancers-fact-sheet> on May 23, 2024.

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Our team is made up of doctors and oncology certified nurses with deep knowledge of cancer care as well as editors and translators with extensive experience in medical writing.

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