

SEPTEMBER

IS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



SEPTEMBER



“This month, we honor the children currently battling cancer, the families who love them, the clinicians and other caregivers treating them, the survivors of childhood cancer, the children who have lost their lives to childhood cancer, and the researchers working to conquer childhood cancer.”



STATISTICS - GLOBAL



- ***Worldwide, about 400,000 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer each year.***
- ***Nearly 10% of children with cancer develop the disease because they inherited a genetic mutation.***
- ***More than 95% of childhood cancer survivors have significant treatment-related health issues.***

STATISTICS - CANADA



- ***Every year, over 2,100 Canadian children are diagnosed with a type of cancer.***
- ***Other than by accident, childhood cancers are the most common cause of death among children who are over one year of age.***
- ***Today, 6 Canadian children will be diagnosed with cancer.***

WHAT IS CHILDHOOD CANCER?



- ***Cancer is a mutation of the cells in the body. In children (youngsters under the age of 19), these mutations can take place very early in life -- sometimes even before birth – as the cells divide and multiply.***
- ***Cancer-causing genetic changes are sometimes thought to occur by chance and at other times, because children are born with a predisposition that increases their risk of developing cancer.***



OCCURRENCE



- ***Cancer is not just one disease: there are more than 12 major types of paediatric cancers and over 100 sub-types which can be found in different parts of the body.***
- ***Cancer can occur in the brain, abdomen, lymph nodes, nervous system, muscles, bone and skin, among other places.***
- ***Childhood cancer cannot generally be prevented or identified through screening.***
- ***Cancer is not contagious and cannot be passed from one person to another.***

ADULT vs. CHILDHOOD CANCER



- ***The causes of adult cancers are often related to lifestyle factors such as exposure to the environment, diet, alcohol intake and smoking.***
- ***The causes of children's cancers are still largely unknown.***
- ***Adults are most affected by breast, lung, prostate, bowel and bladder cancers.***
- ***Children are most affected by acute leukaemias, tumours of the brain and nervous system, the lymphatic system, kidneys, bones and muscles.***

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT



- ***By the time childhood cancers are diagnosed, they tend to be at a more advanced stage and grow more aggressively.***
- ***Treatment depends on the type of cancer and can include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy or sometimes immunotherapy. Sometimes a patient receives more than one of these treatments.***
- ***The length of time needed for treatment differs depending on the type of cancer. Treatments can take several months or even years.***

FAMILY



- ***When a child is diagnosed with cancer, it is devastating news for parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends. The whole family is affected by disruptions to family and school life.***
- ***This is particularly true when the child is very young and one parent has to stay with the child in hospital.***
- ***Maintaining regular routines and rules where possible is important, so there is some semblance of normality.***



AFTER-EFFECTS



While many of the same treatments -- such as chemotherapy, radiation and surgery -- are used for children and adults, children are more likely to suffer significant after-effects such as:

- ***Stunting of growth***
- ***Cognitive dysfunction***
- ***Organ failure, as a result of the harsh impact of treatment on their developing bodies***
- ***Depression***

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



▪ GIVE BLOOD

- It's something that every healthy person can do, and costs nothing but a little of your time.**
- Cancer and cancer treatments can damage bone marrow, where red blood cells and platelets are produced. When patients have low red blood cell and platelet counts, they cannot fight infection.**
- Blood and platelet transfusions can enable patients to receive critical treatments needed to fight cancer.**

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



▪ PARTICIPATE

- Participate in fundraisers such as **STEP-BY-STEP-TEMBRE** for your local children's hospital or childhood cancer organisation.**
- Make it an outing for family fun!**
- Your donations fund medical equipment and vital medical research.**

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



▪ MAKE A DONATION

- Donate to your local children's hospital or childhood cancer organisation. Your gift can support life-saving patient care and ground-breaking research.***

▪ ORGANISE A FUNDRAISER

- Get together with friends to plan a unique fundraiser, or contact your local children's hospital for ideas.***

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



▪ KEEP IN TOUCH

- If your friends' child has been diagnosed with cancer, stay in contact. In person, on the phone, Skype, Zoom or other -- keep in touch. Knowing that you care really matters. They might not be able to reply but reassure them that you don't expect a response.**

▪ FAMILY HELP

- Offer to collect the other children from school, babysit or take siblings for an outing.**

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?



▪ SHOP FOR GROCERIES

- If you can, shop for groceries or prepare home-cooked meals -- that will be one less worry for parents. Meals that can be frozen and reheated can be especially helpful.**

▪ HELP WITH CHORES

- Offer to do some housework or gardening, walk the dog or run a few errands.**

SOURCES OF INFORMATION



- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer-in-children>
- <https://www.childhoodcancer.ca/>
- <https://www.stjude.org/>
- <http://www.danafarberbostonchildrens.org/>
- <https://www.mdanderson.org/>
- <https://www.childrenwithcancer.org.uk/>
- <https://www.cclg.org.uk/>
- <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>
- <https://www.younglivesvcancer.org.uk/life-with-cancer/my-child-has-cancer/your-family/how-to-help-a-friend-whose-child-has-cancer/>



Photos courtesy of the Montreal Children's Hospital, Children's Health Foundation (London, ON), and the Sian Bradwell Foundation

SEPTEMBER



- ***September is usually a time when children go back to school refreshed from the Summer holidays, meet their friends and study with renewed enthusiasm.***
- ***But for children battling cancer, September is another month of treatment, hospital visits and prolonged isolation.***
- ***Don't let cancer stand in the way of a child's dreams. Your support will help children whose lives are put on hold and whose futures are uncertain because of cancer.***

STEP-BY-STEP-TEMBRE



***An initiative by children's hospitals across
Canada in support of Childhood Cancer
Awareness Month.***

STEP-BY-STEP-TEMBRE

SEPTEMBER 1st - 30th



STROLL - WALK - RUN - ROLL
in support of
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month



STEP-BY-STEP-TEMBRE



- ***Move! Step, stroll, walk, run, hike, treadmill, roll or bicycle in your neighbourhood at any time from September 1-30.***
- ***Share the word about the event with family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and social media contacts***
- ***Create a team, set a date, time and location to participate.***

STEP-BY-STEP-TEMBRE



To participate or to make a donation, go to the website of your local children's hospital and search for "STEP-BY-STEP-TEMBRE"

For direct links, visit:

www.sianbradwell.com/donations/september

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS SUPPORT!

SEPTEMBER IS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



la fondation
de l'hôpital
de montréal
pour enfants
the montreal
children's
hospital
foundation



SickKids®



THANK YOU !

