



### **Children's' Lives Matter:**

While September is not only Cervical Cancer Awareness month, we also focus our attention to Childhood Cancer.

Childhood Cancer is devastating to growth and development in children as well as being devastating to their families and friends.

While millions of children are focusing on school, playing and socializing, millions of others have cancer and are focusing on medication, operations and on basic survival. What life is that to have as a child?

Childhood cancer is not only stressful on the child, but on the parents and family of these sufferers too. Daily, parents of childhood cancer sufferers have the agony and heartache of watching their children suffer. They grapple with the stress of the decisions they need to make on which medications and treatments to use as well as still trying to continue with their daily lives of going to work, taking time for themselves, worrying about the child taking too much time off school, but mostly, the anguish and despair of having to explain to their children what is happening.

Some forms of Cancer are mainly only seen in children. Children have often proven to be more resilient to cancer than adults, but awareness, education, support and a thorough treatment strategy are of vital importance.

### **Most Common Cancers found in children:**

- Leukemia
- Brain and spinal cord tumors
- Neuroblastoma
- Wilms Tumor
- Lymphoma
- Bone Cancer
- Rhabdomyosarcoma
- Retinoblastoma



### **Signs of Childhood Cancer:**

**C**ontinued, unexplained weight loss

**H**eadaches

**I**ncreased swelling or persistent pain in bones, joints, backs or legs

**L**ump or mass, especially in the abdomen, neck, chest, pelvis or armpits

**D**evelopment of excessive bruising, bleeding or rash

**C**onstant Infections

**A** whitish color behind the pupils

**N**ausea which persists or vomiting without nausea

**C**onstant tiredness or noticeable paleness

**E**ye or vision changes which occur suddenly and persist

**R**ecurrent or persistent fevers of unknown origin

Childhood cancer is a rare occurrence; however it is very important to be aware of the signs and symptoms. Ensure that you observe your child for any sudden, persistent changes in health or behaviors as listed above.

Be Vigilant

Children's lives matter

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