Pediatric Oncology

Cancer, also known as a malignant tumor or malignant neoplasm, is a group of diseases involving abnormal cell growth with the potential to invade or spread to other parts of the body. Not all tumors are cancerous; benign tumors do not spread to other parts of the body. While these symptoms may indicate cancer, they may also occur due to other issues. Another 10% is due to obesity, a poor diet, and lack of physical activity. Pediatric cancer devastates many of those diagnosed with this deadly disease.

“Cancer is rare,” Dr. Grier says, “that’s why it is better to work in a large collaborative groups.” Every one of us has the predisposition to develop cancer. We are all born with cancer genes, some of us just have a greater chance of those genes triggering cancer than others. Pediatric cancer rates of survival are up to 80%. Though, over the last 10 or so year’s pediatric oncology fundraising has plummeted severely. Most fundraising groups have shut down due to insufficient funds. This leaves little room to develop cures (Carmichael 1).

We must be aware of how becoming diagnosed with cancer interferes with children’s everyday normal life. Many children who develop cancer not only have the deadly disease, but are also experiencing development and psychological issues as well. Children three or younger also require targeted care. Children so young and delicate can be harmed more easily than others. Teens and young adults also require targeted care when being treated because they are in between stages for pediatric treatment and adult care (“Young” 1).

When coping with pediatric cancer there are many changes that endure upon your body. You skin may begin to turn yellow and your eyes may start to look more tired and droop. The most common body change that your body can endure in the long run is frailty. Frailty is when your body becomes very weak, you may begin to feel more tired, and start to lose body mass (“Childhood” 1). Once you recover from childhood cancer your body will begin to return to its nature structure though it is still not like how it used to be.
Studies show that frailty increases with advanced age. Though it also increases when you have recovered from pediatric cancer. Your bones will start to lose strength early on in life. You quite possibly may also be at an increases rate of death or developing chronic diseases. After adjusting from cancerous diseases, researchers calculated that frail childhood cancer survivors were 2.6 times more likely to die than other counterparts (“Childhood” 1). In a comparison of 341 young adults with an average of 29 and no history of childhood cancer, none qualifies as frail. When coping with the effects of childhood cancer, you must remember to exercise, this may play a factor in reducing or limiting frailty all together (“Childhood” 1).

Pediatric cancer devastates many of those diagnosed with pediatric cancer and those around them. Many facts and information about children’s cancer are changing every day in the race to find a cure. “Grier’s job in the lab, this is to do the same thing he does in the clinic, balance optimism with realism, hope with heartbreak,” (Carmichael 1).