



## FACT SHEET

### Cancer Definitions

#### Ewing's Sarcoma

- Part of a group of tumors called Ewing's Family of Tumors (EFT), which is a group of cancers that affect the bones or nearby soft tissues.<sup>1</sup>
- Ewing's Sarcoma is a tumor of the bones, and is the most common type of EFT.<sup>2</sup>
- 90% of people with Ewing's Sarcoma are under the age of 20. Development of the tumor usually occurs in the legs, arms, pelvic area, and chest.<sup>3</sup>
- It occurs in about one teenager in 50,000<sup>4</sup> and accounts for about 30 percent of the bone cancers in children.<sup>5</sup>

#### Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma<sup>6</sup>

- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) is a term that refers to several different types of lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph system, which includes bone marrow (the spongy, red tissue in the inner part of the large bones), lymph nodes, the spleen, and thymus. When lymphatic cells mutate (change) and grow unregulated by the processes that normally decide cell growth and death, they can form tumors.
- Three types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma are:
  - **Lymphoblastic lymphoma (LBL)**. LBL most often develops in the chest area.
  - **Burkitt's lymphoma**. This type of B-cell lymphoma affects the bone marrow and is one of the fastest growing human cancers.
  - **Large cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (LCL)**. LCL is further divided into subtypes: large B-cell lymphoma, which develops from B-cells, and anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL), which develops from T-cells.
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma accounts for about 4% of all childhood cancers and 8% of cancers in teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19. It occurs more often in males than females.

#### Hodgkin's Disease<sup>7</sup>

- Hodgkin lymphoma, also called Hodgkin's Disease, is one category of lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph system. When lymphatic cells mutate (change) and grow unregulated by the processes that normally decide cell growth and death, they can form tumors.
- Hodgkin lymphoma most often forms in two places: the neck (cervical lymph nodes) and an area between the lungs, breastbone, and spine (mediastinal lymph nodes).

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- Hodgkin lymphoma accounts for 4.3% of all cancers in children from birth to age 14 in the United States, but it is the most common cancer in people ages 15 to 19.

### **Brain Tumor**

- Brain tumors are not common in young people<sup>8</sup>, but they are the most common solid tumor for children.<sup>9</sup>
- Historically, childhood brain tumors were almost always fatal. Today, though, half of children with brain tumors live at least five years after diagnosis, and 80% of children with brain tumors go into remission.<sup>10</sup>
- When a child is found to have a brain tumor, it is most often a "medulloblastoma" or an "astrocytoma" brain tumor.<sup>11</sup>

### **Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL)**<sup>12</sup>

- Acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) is a cancer of lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell that is part of the immune system. ALL is most common in young children and adults over age 50, but can occur at all ages. ALL is the most common form of leukemia in children.
- Lymphocytes normally live in the blood, lymph nodes, spleen, and in bone marrow. Healthy lymphocytes make antibodies and fight infections. In people with ALL, the lymphocytes do not develop into mature cells, but remain as immature cells called lymphoblasts.

### **Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)- Formerly referred to as Acute Myelogenous Leukemia**<sup>13</sup>

- Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is a cancer of the blood-forming tissue, located in the bone marrow.
- AML is the second most common form of leukemia in children. AML is most frequent during the first two years of life and during the teenage years. Approximately 500 children are diagnosed with AML in the United States each year.
- In AML, the bone marrow produces large numbers of abnormal cancerous cells, also called blasts or myeloblasts because they look like immature bone marrow blast cells. These myeloblasts then accumulate in the bloodstream and can invade the lymph nodes, brain, skin, liver, kidneys, ovaries, testes, and other organs.

### **Osteosarcoma**<sup>14</sup>

- Osteosarcoma is a cancer of the bone that destroys tissue and weakens the bone. It starts in immature bone cells that normally form new bone tissue. It occurs rarely as a tumor in the soft tissues of the body, outside the bone.
- About 3% of all childhood cancers are osteosarcoma. Osteosarcoma is almost twice as common in boys as girls and most often affects teenagers and young adults in their 20s.

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- <sup>1</sup> Statistics adapted from the American Cancer Society's publication, Cancer Facts & Figures 2006. Additional statistics adapted from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program of the National Cancer Institute from 1985 to 2001. Retrieved March 8, 2006 from: [http://www.oncology.com/plwc/MainConstructor/1,1744,\\_04-0061-00\\_12-001043-00\\_17-001029-00\\_18-0025904-00\\_19-000-00\\_20-001-00\\_21-008,00.asp](http://www.oncology.com/plwc/MainConstructor/1,1744,_04-0061-00_12-001043-00_17-001029-00_18-0025904-00_19-000-00_20-001-00_21-008,00.asp).
  - <sup>2</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>3</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>4</sup> Ewing's Sarcoma. UCSF Children's Hospital. Retrieved March 8, 2006 from: [http://www.ucsfhealth.org/childrens/medical\\_services/cancer/sarcomas/conditions/ewing/signs.html](http://www.ucsfhealth.org/childrens/medical_services/cancer/sarcomas/conditions/ewing/signs.html).
  - <sup>5</sup> Cancer Facts & Figures 2006.
  - <sup>6</sup> Cancer Facts & Figures 2006.
  - <sup>7</sup> Cancer Facts & Figures 2006.
  - <sup>8</sup> Facts and Statistics. American Brain Tumor Association. Retrieved March 8, 2006 from: <http://www.abta.org/kids/learning/facts.htm>.
  - <sup>9</sup> Brain Tumors. Teens Living with Cancer. Retrieved March 8, 2006 from: <http://www.teenslivingwithcancer.com/cancerFacts/whatIs/brainTumor.asp>.
  - <sup>10</sup> Brain Tumor: Understanding Your Disease. Med Help International. Retrieved March 8, 2006 from: <http://www.medhelp.org/lib/brainqi.htm>.
  - <sup>11</sup> Facts and Statistics. American Brain Tumor Association.
  - <sup>12</sup> Cancer Facts & Figures 2006.
  - <sup>13</sup> Cancer Facts & Figures 2006.
  - <sup>14</sup> Cancer Facts & Figures 2006.



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