

# Children's Cancer and Hematologic Care

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENTS GUIDEBOOK



FLORIDA HOSPITAL  
*for* CHILDREN



## Extraordinary care for extraordinary kids.

We believe your child should have the best childhood possible, even while undergoing pediatric cancer treatments. This guide will help you learn more about how we commit to helping support your whole family throughout your child's treatment journey.

From the moment you arrive, you'll feel welcomed and nurtured in a kid-friendly environment. Here, you'll meet your treatment team of highly skilled

medical professionals with extensive experience in oncology and hematology. You can rest assured you're in good hands. We treat a wide range of conditions from leukemia and lymphoma to bleeding disorders like sickle cell anemia, and we're the first hospital in Central Florida to establish pediatric neuro-oncology and neurofibromatosis programs.





## A healing experience designed for your child.

One of the premier children's health systems in the nation, *Florida Hospital for Children* sets the standard for innovation, quality and comprehensive care. With the help of Walt Disney Imagineering and input from patients, families and clinicians, our seven-story, technologically advanced facility features a child-centered healing environment. Each floor of the hospital is themed to natural environments inspired by classic Disney-animated movies, such as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, *Brother Bear* and *The Jungle Book*.

Our priority at *Florida Hospital for Children* is to do everything we can to make your child, and your family, whole again. We provide the highest quality of care possible, giving your child the best chance at a full recovery. And we want you to feel absolutely confident that entrusting your child's care to our physicians and nurses is the right decision.





## We care about your care.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT SOME OF THE CONDITIONS AND DISORDERS WE TREAT.

#### LEUKEMIA

Because leukemia spreads through the blood, it can be very aggressive. Therefore, our treatment strategies are even more aggressive, with our goal being to destroy diseased cells and keep them from traveling to other areas of the body. Treatment options include chemotherapy, radiation and bone marrow transplants, either as stand-alone treatments or in combination.

#### BLEEDING AND COAGULATION DISORDERS

Bleeding and coagulation disorders can range from easily manageable to very serious conditions. Hemophilia, for example, is a common disorder in which the body lacks the agents that promote clotting. We have treated many children with bleeding disorders, by first assessing and diagnosing the patient's condition, then administering a regimen of care that reduces the frequency of symptoms.

#### BRAIN TUMORS

While no two tumors are exactly the same, there are many common characteristics among tumors that dictate which treatments work best. Our team of highly experienced pediatric neurosurgeons, neurologists, oncologists and radiation oncologists work together to assess each situation individually and devise the most effective course of action. Options range from surgical removal of the tumor to chemotherapy or radiation therapy, which can stunt its growth or eliminate it entirely.

#### SOLID TUMORS

Thanks to advances in treating solid tumors using a multi-treatment approach, patient outcomes for this form of pediatric cancer have improved substantially over recent years. These cancers include neuroblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma and osteosarcoma, and the most effective treatment options include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy, either individually or in combination.



### ANEMIA

When the body doesn't produce sufficient quantities of red blood cells or is unable to maintain adequate hemoglobin levels, your child may be diagnosed with anemia. The causes of anemia, however, can vary widely from issues as manageable as the patient's diet to more severe conditions. Our physicians work with you and your child to diagnose the condition and make recommendations for increasing your child's ability to store iron and produce more red cells.

### LYMPHOMA

Lymphoma, which attacks the lymphatic system found throughout the body, is the third most common form of pediatric cancer. It falls into two main categories: Hodgkin's lymphoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Specialists at our hospital use the latest chemotherapy and radiation treatments to tackle this form of cancer, resulting in vastly improved survival rates over the years.

### SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

Sickle cell anemia is an uncommon genetic disorder characterized by its sickle-shaped red blood cells, which tend to cluster together in the bloodstream rather than flow freely. Our hematology specialists are experienced in combating sickle cell disease with a range of treatments, such as prescribing hydroxyurea or administering blood transfusions. Bone marrow transplantation, which is currently the only cure for the disease, is also an option for some patients.

### THALASSEMIA

Passed genetically from parent to child, thalassemia prevents the body from creating enough red blood cells and hemoglobin to deliver sufficient levels of oxygen. Our hematology team can accurately diagnose the severity of the condition and help you make an informed decision about treatment. This may include blood transfusions or a bone marrow transplant, which can be done right here at the hospital in the region's only bone marrow transplant center.

## Specialized treatments for special kids.

At *Florida Hospital for Children*, our pediatric cancer and blood disorder program provides a varied and extensive range of specialized treatment options that include:

### GAMMA KNIFE® CENTER

We were the first hospital in Central Florida to adopt this technology, which delivers a high level of treatment accuracy and improved outcomes for children with brain tumors, or vascular malformations.

### NEUROFIBROMATOSIS CLINIC

Neurofibromatosis is characterized by tumors along the nerves and skin and changes in skin pigmentation. At our neurofibromatosis clinic, we use a multidisciplinary approach to treatment that includes genetics, oncology, neurology, neuropsychology and neurosurgery.



# Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Transplantations.

The Kids Beating Cancer Pediatric Transplant Center is the first and only unit of its kind in Central Florida. We offer comprehensive services that include pre-transplantation consultation and evaluation, education, social services and post-transplant follow-up and care. Treatment for many forms of blood-related diseases may include bone marrow or cord blood transplantation, especially for severe cases of leukemia, lymphoma or anemia, including sickle cell anemia. We perform stem cell transplantation with stem cells from bone marrow, umbilical cord blood or peripheral blood.

## FAMILY-FOCUSED SUPPORT SYSTEM

Our bone marrow transplant services are backed by world-class care, including pediatric radiation therapy, clinical pharmacy and laboratory services, and social support services. We have an on-site laboratory, complete with an in-house lab technician who can process blood examinations and counts quickly so our patients don't have to wait any longer than necessary for the results.

## FUND THE MATCH

Kids Beating Cancer funds hospital and lab costs not covered by Medicaid and insurance for any child in need of a transplant. That means every child has access to the best medical treatment and the only hope for a cure. In fact, families will never receive hospital bills for costs not covered by Medicaid or insurance.



**KIDS BEATING CANCER®**  
Science is the Cure

## FLORIDA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN PEDIATRIC CELLULAR THERAPY

Florida Hospital for Children is a Duke Health affiliate in pediatric bone marrow transplant. This relationship gives us access to advisory and operational support services to develop our own pediatric bone marrow transplant program. Plus, we have access to the clinical experience and expertise in program development from the Duke Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, a nationally and internationally recognized leader in caring for children with blood and bone marrow diseases. All of this adds up to enhanced quality of care for our patients—right here in Central Florida.



DukeHealth AFFILIATE

## FEELING AT HOME

When a child needs a bone marrow or stem cell transplant, the treatment requires them to be away from the familiarity and comforts of home for many weeks, even months in some cases. Kids Beating Cancer's My Room program allows each child to pick the theme of their hospital room. From sheets and bedding to toys and games, the hospital room will be filled with the bright colors of Minnie Mouse, Hello Kitty, Disney Princesses, Spiderman, Ninja Turtles, Star Wars or one of many other themes. This way, kids are surrounded by a fun and comforting environment while staying in a high-tech, state-of-the-art transplant hospital room.





## Unparalleled Network of Care.

Supported by the strength, innovations and mission of the Florida Hospital system, *Florida Hospital for Children* is committed to delivering world-class programs, extraordinary patient care and clinical excellence. Our flagship hospital is the heart of a children's network that includes primary care pediatricians, specialty clinics, emergency departments and Kids Urgent Cares.

Across Central Florida, there are more than 300 dedicated pediatric beds, with 200 of them

located at the tertiary children's hospital in Orlando. Four dedicated ambulances and one helicopter provide emergency transfers. And we're staffed with a highly trained PICU and NICU transport team that supports regional hospitals within an 85-mile radius, including 13 adjacent Florida Hospital locations.

And no matter which one of our facilities you visit, your records will be immediately accessible for an efficient, seamless healthcare experience. We're here to heal – body, mind and spirit.



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PRIMARY CARE OFFICES



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SPECIALTY CLINICS



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EMERGENCY CARE CENTERS



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NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS



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KIDS URGENT CARE CENTERS



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SPECIALIZED PEDIATRIC TRANSPORT TEAMS





## We are here for your whole family.

If you have concerns about your child, give us a call. We can help you navigate normal childhood changes and catch issues early, so you can get the best treatment possible for your family.

*This guide is provided to the general public to disseminate health-related information. The information is not intended to be used for diagnosing or prescribing. Please consult your physician before undertaking any form of medical treatment and/or adopting any exercise program or dietary guidelines.*

*Florida Hospital complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.*

*ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al número siguiente.*



**We're here to talk.**

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