

Signs and Symptoms of Pediatric Cancer

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Cancer

1. Signs and symptoms of pediatric cancer are often nonspecific and can be easily overlooked. Common signs include unexplained weight loss, persistent fever, and fatigue. Symptoms such as persistent cough, bone pain, and bruising should also be considered. Early diagnosis is crucial for better outcomes.

2. The most common sites for pediatric cancer are the brain, bone, and soft tissue. Leukemia and lymphoma are also frequent. Symptoms vary by site, but common ones include persistent pain, swelling, and changes in appearance. A thorough medical history and physical examination are essential for identifying these signs.

Noncancer

3. Many signs and symptoms of pediatric cancer can also be caused by noncancerous conditions. For example, persistent cough could be due to a respiratory infection, and bone pain could be from a fracture. A detailed history and physical exam, along with appropriate laboratory and imaging studies, are needed to distinguish between cancer and noncancerous causes.

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