## Moving Beyond Cancer to Wellness:

# **Understanding Long Term Effects of Childhood Cancer Treatment**

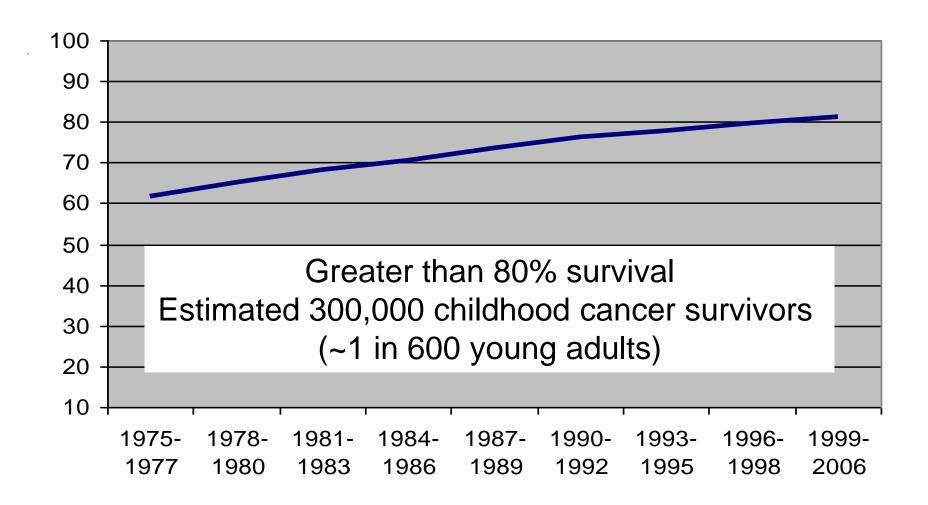
Eric Chow, MD, MPH Karen Wilkinson, MSN, ARNP Cancer Survivor Program







#### Pediatric Cancer Survival – A Success Story









#### **End of Treatment**

- Many families identify end of treatment as a time of new uncertainty, frustration and stress
- "We lived with these people (staff) for 8 months, and then they say 'OK, you're done, see you. We will see you in 3 months. Bye.' .....hey, wait a minute. This is really not over for us".







## **Moving from Cancer Patient to Survivor**

#### Transitions

- End of treatment
- Return to "normal"
- Primary care provider & survivor program
- Teens / Young Adults

#### Things to learn about

- Cancer treatment summary
- Follow-up schedule
- Between visits
- Late effects ←







#### Survivor Health Knowledge – Often Incomplete

Kadan-Lottick, JAMA 2002

#### Diagnosis

- 91% knew (72% detailed knowledge)
- 2% cancer
- 7% unaware

#### Treatment

- Radiation ~90% aware (70% knew site)
- Anthracycline chemotherapy <30%</li>
- Major surgery type <70% aware</li>







# Possible Long-term Effects

- Growth & Development
  - Growth deficiencies
  - Cognitive function
  - Hearing loss
  - Psychosocial distress
- Fertility & Reproduction
  - Delayed or early puberty
  - Sterility
  - Premature menopause

- Other Organ Dysfunction
  - Endocrine
  - Heart
  - Lungs
  - Kidney and Bladder
- New Cancers

No one gets all these problems

No one is completely unaffected

Most survivors lead healthy lives







#### **Growth Issues**

- Effects of treatment on growing bodies
  - Radiation
  - Chemotherapy
  - Surgery
- Bone health
- Hormone problems
  - Growth hormone
  - Thyroid
  - Sex hormones







# **Growth – Brain Development**

- Symptoms may include
  - Academic challenges and changes
  - Difficulty with multi-step processes
  - Feeling less sharp
  - Memory problems
  - Needing more effort to do things that previously came easily
- Depends on therapy
  - Higher doses of brain radiation, some chemotherapy
  - Younger ages may be at greater risk







## Growth Issues – What can you do?

- Regular preventive health care with your PCP
  - Monitoring height, weight
  - Hearing and vision screens
  - Dental care
  - Screening labs
- Work with schools / teachers
  - Some survivors may benefit from early neurodevelopmental testing







## Fertility / Reproductive Concerns

- Can I have children?
- How will my body respond to pregnancy?
- Will my children be affected by prior treatment?
  - Congenital malformations
  - Cancer
  - Other birth complications Possible







## Fertility / Reproductive Concerns

- Treatments that may affect fertility
  - Alkylator chemotherapy (e.g. cyclophosphamide, ifosfamide)
  - Radiation to brain, ovaries, testes
  - Dose dependent
- Pregnancy Health
  - Females: possible effect on heart function during pregnancy
  - Some may have greater risk of premature births, lower birth weight babies
- Offspring otherwise appear to be healthy







## Fertility / Reproductive – What can you do?

- Advocate for improved fertility preservation education & resources <u>prior</u> to cancer treatment
  - Pre-2012: sperm banking, embryo cyropreservation
  - 2012: oocyte cyropreservation no longer "experimental"
- Discuss need for fertility testing (sperm banking, lab work) and referral to reproductive specialist, and possibly high-risk obstetrician
- Adoption and other alternatives







## **Heart & Lung Issues**

- Heart disease (cardiomyopathy)
  - Risk related to Anthracycline chemotherapy (e.g. doxorubicin) and chest radiation
  - High blood pressure or cholesterol levels also important
- Lung disease (fibrosis)
  - Risk related to Bleomycin chemotherapy and chest radiation
- May develop decades after exposure
  - Risk influenced by age at treatment, treatment doses, time since treatment, genetics







# Heart & Lung – What can you do?

- Know if you / your child is at increased risk
- Talk to your doctor about how best to monitor for these effects (may need life-long monitoring)
- Be aware of symptoms that may indicate heart or lung disease
  - Chest pain
     Fatigue
  - Shortness of breath
     Leg swelling
- Lifestyle issues
  - Avoid smoking, be physically active, eat healthy
  - www.zamzee.com

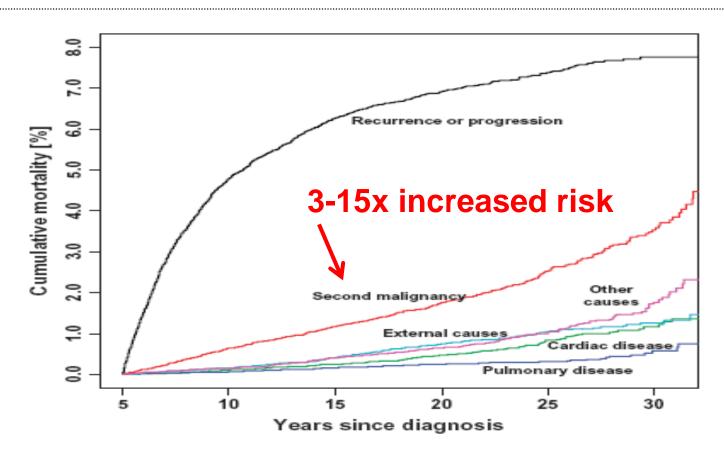






#### **New Cancers**

Mertens AC, et al. JNCI 2008









## New Cancers – What can you do?

#### KNOWLEDGE:

- Cancer and its therapy can increase risk of another cancer
- Know what may increase your/your child's risk of subsequent cancer
  - Know what kind of treatment you/your child received
  - This includes knowing your family history
- Know if you/your child needs special screening that others their age do not typically need
  - Dermatology visit after radiation exposure
  - Earlier mammograms for girls exposed to chest radiation



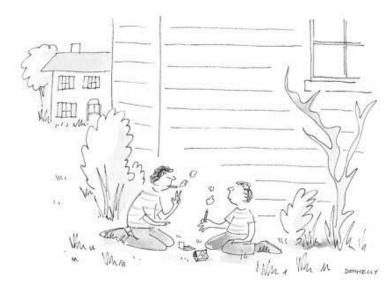




## **New Cancers – What can you do?**

#### ACTION:

- Get the proper screening done
- Lead a healthy lifestyle by avoiding
  - Excess sun exposure
  - Tobacco
  - Excess alcohol
  - Physical <u>in</u>activity
  - Poor diet







## 2005 Institute of Medicine Report

"From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition"

**Recommendation 2:** Patients completing primary treatment should be provided with a comprehensive care summary and follow-up plan that is clearly and effectively explained. This "Survivorship Care Plan" should be written by the principal provider(s) who coordinated oncology

# Importance of risk-based care with Individualized recommendations

tematically developed evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, assessment tools, and screening instruments to help identify and manage late effects of cancer and its treatment. Existing guidelines should be refined and new evidence-based guidelines should be developed through public- and private-sector efforts.

# **Survivor Program Services**

- Multidisciplinary team approach with PCP as integral team member (resource for community providers)
- Comprehensive review of cancer tx records
  - All are welcome you don't have to have been treated in Seattle
- Discussion of school/work, reproductive issues
- Individualized anticipatory guidance & screening
- Referral to appropriate subspecialties
- Case management (medical home) for those with complex needs
- Partnership and transition to adult program at FHCRC







## Survivor Program Follow-up Schedule

- Based on specific disease and risk of relapse/recurrence
- Establishing care with a primary care provider is highly recommended
- Late effects and monitoring should start by 2 years off active therapy
  - Lab work
  - Other testing (e.g. audiograms, bone density scans, heart ultrasounds, lung studies, neurocognitive testing)
- Long-Term Follow-Up guidelines for Survivors of Childhood, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers available at www.survivorshipguidelines.org







## Long-Term Follow-Up Guidelines

for Survivors of Childhood, Adolescent, and Young Adult Cancers

Version 3.0 – October 2008



Children's Oncology Group

www.survivorshipguidelines.org







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#### Other On-line Resources

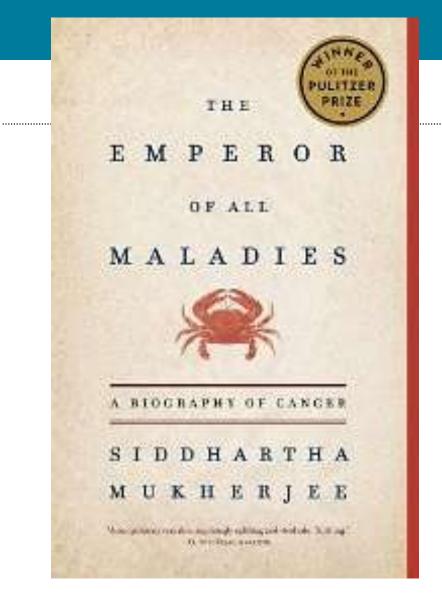
- Current pediatric cancer treatment
  - NCI http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdg/pediatrictreatment
- Seattle Children's Cancer Survivor Program
   http://www.seattlechildrens.org/cancersurvivorprogram/
- Late effects screening
  - Children's Oncology Group <a href="http://www.survivorshipguidelines.org/">http://www.survivorshipguidelines.org/</a>
  - NCI <a href="http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/lateeffects/Patient">http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/lateeffects/Patient</a>
  - Fertile Hope <a href="http://www.fertilehope.org/">http://www.fertilehope.org/</a>
- General topics (American Cancer Society)

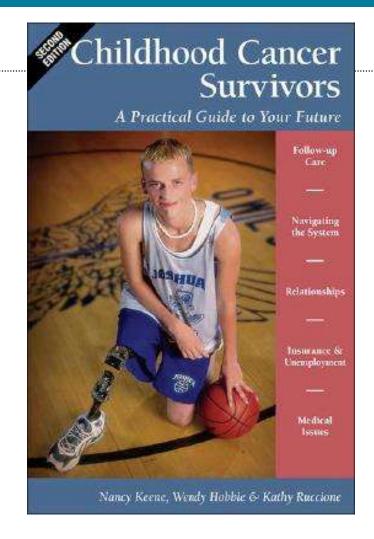
http://www.cancer.org/treatment/survivorshipduringandaftertreatment/index

















#### Conclusions

- Cure is not enough
- Know what lies ahead for you and your child
- Get educated and advocate
- Participate in research
- Let us work together to help you:

Move beyond cancer to wellness!

We thank all the patients and families who continue to teach us and help those who will face cancer in the future







# Survivorship Research

#### Local Projects

- Weight gain and insulin resistance during leukemia therapy
- Male fertility after ifosfamide and cisplatin
- Long-term metabolic and heart health after stem cell transplantation
- National Projects
  - Childhood Cancer Survivor Study
    - Predicting cardiovascular disease among survivors
  - Children's Oncology Group
    - Prevention of anthracycline-related cardiomyopathy
  - National Wilms Tumor Study Late Effects Study







## Parting Thoughts...

I have heard there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead and some come from behind. But I've bought a big bat. I'm all ready you see. Now my troubles are going to have troubles with me! ~Dr. Seuss

It's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

~Abraham Lincoln





