

[Germ Cell Tumor - Childhood - Risk Factors](#) [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 03/2016

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about the factors that increase the chance of developing this type of tumor. To see other pages, use the menu.

A risk factor is anything that increases a person's chance of developing a tumor. Although risk factors often influence the development of a tumor, most do not directly cause a tumor. Some children with several risk factors never develop a tumor, while others with no known risk factors do.

The following factors may raise a child's risk of developing an extracranial germ cell tumor:

- **Cryptorchidism.** If a boy has an undescended testicle, he has a higher risk of developing a testicular seminoma tumor. To learn more, see the full guide to [testicular cancer](#) [3] on another part of Cancer.Net.
- **Turner syndrome.** Turner syndrome is a genetic condition in which a girl is born with a missing X chromosome. Girls with this condition have a higher risk of developing a gonadoblastoma, a benign tumor that can eventually turn into cancer.
- **Androgen insensitivity syndrome.** Androgen insensitivity syndrome is when a person who is genetically male, with 1 X and 1 Y chromosome, is resistant to male hormones called androgens. A person with this syndrome has a higher risk of developing a gonadoblastoma or other germ cell tumors.

The following factor may raise a person's risk of developing an extracranial, extragonadal germ cell tumor:

- **Klinefelter's syndrome.** Men with this genetic condition are born with an extra X chromosome. Klinefelter's syndrome is connected to a higher risk of a germ cell tumor in the chest.

The [next section in this guide is Symptoms and Signs](#) [4]. It explains what body changes or medical problems this disease can cause. Or, use the menu to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/es/node/18885>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/es/node/51>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/31375>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18886>