

## Germ Cell Tumor - Childhood - Side Effects

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[1\]](#), June / 2012

### Coping with Side Effects

[Fear of treatment side effects \[2\]](#) is common after a diagnosis of a tumor, but it may help to know that preventing and controlling side effects is a major focus of your child's health care team. This is called palliative or supportive care, and it is an important part of the overall treatment plan, regardless of the stage of disease.

Common side effects from each treatment option for a germ cell tumor are described in detail within the [Treatment \[3\]](#) section. Learn more about [the most common side effects of a tumor and different treatments, along with ways to prevent or control them \[4\]](#). Side effects depend on a variety of factors, including the tumor's stage, the length and dosage of treatment(s), and your child's overall health.

Before treatment begins, talk with your child's doctor about possible side effects of each type of treatment your child will be receiving. Ask which side effects are most likely to happen, when they are likely to occur, and what can be done to prevent or relieve them. And, ask about the level of caregiving your child may need during treatment and recovery, as family members and friends often play an important role in the care of a person with a germ cell tumor. Learn more about [caregiving \[5\]](#).

In addition to physical side effects, there may be psychosocial (emotional and social) effects as well. Patients and their families are encouraged to share their feelings with a member of their health care team who can help with [coping strategies \[6\]](#). Learn more about the importance of [addressing such needs \[7\]](#), including concerns about [managing the cost of your child's medical care \[8\]](#).

During and after treatment, be sure to tell the health care team about the side effects your child experiences, even if you feel they are not serious. Sometimes, side effects can last beyond the treatment period, called a long-term side effect. A side effect that occurs months or years after treatment is called a [late effect \[9\]](#). Treatment of both types of effects is an important part of survivorship care. Learn more by reading the [After Treatment \[10\]](#) section or talking with your child's doctor.

#### Links:

- [1] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24492>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18889>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25238>
- [5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25009>
- [6] <http://www.cancer.net/node/21>
- [7] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25010>
- [8] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24865>
- [9] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25396>
- [10] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18892>