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Medulloblastoma - Childhood - After Treatment

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After Treatment

After treatment for medulloblastoma ends, talk with your child's doctor about developing a follow-up care plan. This plan may include regular physical examinations and/or medical tests to monitor your child's recovery for the coming months and years. All children treated for a CNS tumor, including medulloblastoma, should have life-long, follow-up care.

Based on the type of treatment the child received, the doctor will determine what examinations and tests are need to check for long-term side effects, such as cognitive (thought-process) and endocrine (hormonal) symptoms caused by radiation therapy to the brain or spinal cord, side effects caused by surgery, and the possibility of secondary cancers. Follow-up care should also address the child's quality of life, including any developmental or emotional concerns. Learn more about childhood cancer survivorship [2].

The child's family is encouraged to organize and keep a record of the child's medical information. That way, as the child enters adulthood, he or she has a clear, written history of the diagnosis, the treatment given, and the doctor's recommendations about the schedule for follow-up care. The doctor's office can help you create this. This information will be valuable to doctors who care for your child during his or her lifetime. ASCO offers cancer treatment summary forms [3] to help keep track of the treatment your child received and develop a survivorship care plan once treatment is completed.

Children can also enhance the quality of their future by following established guidelines for good health into and through adulthood, including not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, eating a balanced diet, and participating in regular physical activity. Talk with the doctor about developing a plan that is best for your child's needs. Learn more about the next steps to take in survivorship [4].

Find out more about common terms used after treatment is complete [5].

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[2] http://www.cancer.net/node/25395
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/25394
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/25400
[5] http://www.cancer.net/node/25380