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PDF generated on July 24, 2016 from
<http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/pleuropulmonary-blastoma-childhood/introduction>

[Pleuropulmonary Blastoma - Childhood - Introduction](#) [1]

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

ON THIS PAGE: You will find some basic information about this disease and the parts of the body it may affect. This is the first page of Cancer.Net's Guide to Pleuropulmonary Blastoma. To see other pages, use the menu. Think of that menu as a roadmap to this full guide.

Pleuropulmonary blastoma (PPB) is a rare type of childhood lung tumor that begins in the chest, either in the lung tissue (pulmonary) or in the tissue that covers the lungs and the inside of the pleura, also called the chest cavity.

A tumor begins when healthy cells change and grow out of control, forming a mass called a tumor. A tumor can be cancerous or benign. A cancerous tumor is malignant, meaning it can grow and spread to other parts of the body. A benign tumor means the tumor can grow but will not spread.

There are 4 types of PPB:

- Type I is made up of air pockets called cysts with early evidence that it is cancerous. However, it is difficult to find and diagnose in this early form. It occurs in very young children, who on average are 10 months old. It has a better chance of being successfully treated than Types II and III, described below.
- Type Ir is similar to Type I, but it does not have cancerous cells. The "r" stands for regressing.

- Types II and III generally occur in children ages 3 to 4. Types II and III are cancerous tumors and require intensive chemotherapy.

Many patients with PPB have a mutation of the *DICER1 RNase-IIIb* gene. More details on the different types of PPB are explained in other sections, including more information about genetic factors in [Risk Factors](#) [3].

Looking for More of an Introduction?

If you would like more of an introduction, explore this related item. Please note this link will take you to another section on Cancer.Net:

- **Cancer.Net Patient Education Video:** View [a short video](#) [4] led by an ASCO expert in childhood cancer that provides basic information and areas of research.

The [next section in this guide is Statistics](#) [5]. It helps explain how many people are diagnosed with this disease and general survival rates. Or, use the menu to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/pleuropulmonary-blastoma-childhood/introduction>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19551>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/27386>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19550>