

Pleuropulmonary Blastoma - Childhood - Risk Factors

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[1\]](#), October / 2013

Risk Factors

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about what factors increase the chance of this type of tumor. To see other pages in this guide, use the colored boxes on the right side of your screen, or click ?Next? at the bottom.

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 people with several risk factors never develop a tumor, while others with no known risk factors do.

The cause of PPB is not known. Most often it develops randomly. For most children with PPB, there may have been no personal or family history of the disease before the PPB occurred; in other words, there was no reason to suspect that the child would develop PPB. Most family members of children with PPB are healthy. The following factors may raise a person's risk of developing PPB.

Cysts. Early stages of PPB appear as cysts. However, most children with lung cysts do not have PPB.

Family history. About 40% of children with PPB have a family history of lung cysts, kidney cysts (called cystic nephroma, which is very rare), [Wilms tumor \[2\]](#), [thyroid \[3\]](#) lumps (sometimes cancerous), rare ovarian tumors (called Sertoli-Leydig cell tumors), leukemia, [cervical rhabdomyosarcoma \[4\]](#), [peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumor \[5\]](#), and small bowel polyps (also called hamartomatous polyps, which are noncancerous masses of normal tissue on the small intestine). These situations are rare, and very few doctors have experience with them. Also, a mutation in a gene called *DICER1* has been found in families with PPB.

Choose ?Next? (below, right) to continue reading this guide to learn about what symptoms this type of tumor can cause. Or, use the colored boxes located on the right side of your screen to visit any section.

Links:

- [1] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19336>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19293>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19590>
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