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## Rhabdomyosarcoma - Childhood - Symptoms and Signs [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[2\]](#), 02/2014

**ON THIS PAGE:** You will find out more about body changes and other things that can signal a problem that may need medical care. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Children with rhabdomyosarcoma may experience the following symptoms or signs. Sometimes, children with rhabdomyosarcoma do not show any of these symptoms. Or, these symptoms may be caused by a medical condition that is not cancer.

Because rhabdomyosarcoma occurs most often in areas that cause noticeable symptoms, it is often diagnosed early. A small, visible, painless lump often forms near the surface of the body, where it is more easily spotted. The symptoms of a less obvious tumor can vary depending on where it is located in the body. A larger tumor may cause pain if it is pushing on nerves or other areas of the body.

Location of Tumor	Symptom
Nasal cavity	Nosebleed Symptoms similar to a sinus infection
Ear	Earaches, bleeding, or discharge from the ear canal Mass growing from the ear canal
Behind the eye	May cause the eye to bulge or swell May make the child look cross-eyed

Bladder, urinary tract, vagina, or testicle	<p>May cause blood in the urine and make urinating difficult</p> <p>Bleeding from the vagina</p> <p>Mass growing from the vagina</p> <p>Rapid growth around the testicles</p>
Abdomen or pelvis	<p>Abdominal pain</p> <p>Vomiting</p> <p>Constipation</p>
Arm or leg muscle	<p>Mass, growth, lump, bump, or swelling in the leg or arm that may or may not be painful</p>

If the cancer has spread, the child may experience a chronic cough, bone pain, enlarged lymph nodes, weakness, or weight loss.

If you are concerned about one or more of the symptoms or signs on this list, please talk with your child's doctor. Your doctor will ask how long and how often your child has been experiencing the symptom(s), in addition to other questions. This is to help find out the cause of the problem, called a diagnosis [3].

If cancer is diagnosed, relieving symptoms remains an important part of cancer care and treatment. This may also be called symptom management, palliative care, or supportive care. Be sure to talk with your child's health care team about symptoms your child experiences, including any new symptoms or a change in symptoms.

*The next section helps explain what tests and scans may be needed to learn more about the cause of the symptoms. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Diagnosis, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.*

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**Links:**

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/rhabdomyosarcoma-childhood/symptoms-and-signs>

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

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19595>