

Young Adult Cancer Center



The nationally recognized Young Adult Cancer Center at Cincinnati Children's addresses patients' medical and psychosocial concerns to help them experience the best outcomes and quality of life possible. Our multidisciplinary team of young adult cancer specialists works collaboratively to develop and follow a comprehensive treatment plan.

CONTACT US

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Young adults (ages 15-39) who are diagnosed with a pediatric cancer have unique needs. Their response to therapy and risks for side effects are different compared to older adults and children. Many face complex personal situations, such as having children of their own, balancing career and educational responsibilities with treatment, having difficulty with tolerating medication, experiencing multiple comorbidities and more.

The types of cancer that affect young adults are often aggressive, evaluating and treating these patients quickly is essential. We can offer an initial consult within days of a first phone call to the Young Adult Cancer Center. This allows us to minimize delays in cancer therapy, fertility preservation, psychosocial care and other critical services.

HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

- Experienced oncologists with extensive expertise in treating pediatric cancers that affect many young adults.
- Advanced clinical trials that offer the most cutting-edge cancer-fighting treatment protocols.
- A multidisciplinary team that mobilizes quickly to provide a thorough evaluation, personalized treatment plan and extensive support.
- Centralized clinics, where patients can see multiple subspecialists during a single appointment.
- Cutting-edge therapies, including precision genomics, novel stem cell transplantation techniques and immunotherapy.
- Rapid access to fertility preservation therapies from our team of oncofertility experts.
- Comprehensive psychosocial support for patients and families.
- An inpatient cancer rehabilitation program that provides intensive therapy for patients with physical or cognitive problems caused by cancer or treatment.



Cincinnati Children's is ranked #3 in cancer.



FACTS ABOUT CANCER IN YOUNG ADULTS

Each year in the United States, about 70,000 people ages 15–39 are diagnosed with cancer.

Research indicates that young adults typically respond differently to treatment than younger children and older adults. Possible factors include:

- Unique biologic characteristics of tumors that typically occur in young adults
- Higher risk of chemotherapy and steroid treatment side effects
- Challenges adhering to treatment regimens while navigating the other responsibilities and transitions of young adulthood



CUTTING-EDGE CANCER THERAPIES

Cincinnati Children's offers advanced, cutting-edge cancer therapies for young adult patients.

- **Next generation DNA sequencing** allows us to create individualized treatment plans based on genetic markers. Cincinnati Children's pioneered the use of tumor and leukemia DNA sequencing to guide the care of patients with high-risk and relapsed cancers.
- **Cellular anticancer and antiviral therapies**, including CAR T-cell therapy, has the potential to provide long-term remission as a pathway to cure young adults with refractory or relapsed acute lymphocytic leukemia and lymphoma. In addition, our team has developed a way to reprogram the patient's specialized immune T-cells to fight life-threatening viral infections that may occur after a stem cell transplant.
- **Immuno-radiotherapy** uses radiation to "unmask" some cancers so the immune system can recognize and target them. We are testing this therapy in a clinical trial for patients with relapsed or refractory sarcomas, liver and kidney tumors and lymphomas.
- **Targeted radiolabeled therapies** are effective for many patients with neuroendocrine tumors, nasopharyngeal carcinomas and other cancers.
- **Novel therapies and techniques for stem cell transplantation** include small molecule anticancer agents and anti-angiogenic regimens.
- **Collaborative development of stem cell transplant procedures** that are the standard of care in more than 200 cancer centers throughout North America. Our team of specialists has performed over 2,300 hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCTs).
- **Advanced proton and other cutting-edge radiation therapies**, such as shaped-beam stereotactic radiation therapy and proton radiation therapy, which minimize damage to healthy tissue. Our Proton Therapy Center offers pencil beam scanning, the most advanced form of radiation therapy available.



YOUNG ADULT CANCER CENTER TEAM LEADERS

John Perentesis, MD, FAAP

Director, Division of Oncology
Vice Chair, National Children's
Oncology Group Adolescent and
Young Adult Steering Committee

Robin Norris, MD, MS, MPH

Co-Director, Young Adult Cancer Center
Director, Clinical Research for Oncology

Joseph Pressey, MD

Co-Director, Young Adult Cancer Center
Co-Director, Sarcoma Program

Meghan McGrady, PhD

Director, Young Adult Cancer
Psychosocial Program

Our cancer team includes specialists who collaborate to provide the most personalized, effective care possible. They represent the following disciplines:

- Behavioral medicine
- Genetics
- Inpatient rehabilitation
- Interventional radiology
- Nursing
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Oncology
- Orthopaedics
- Pathology
- Radiation therapy
- School intervention
- Social work
- Bone Marrow Transplantation and Immune Deficiency
- Surgery

CONDITIONS TREATED

Our cancer specialists have extensive experience treating young adult patients who have pediatric cancers, including:

- Brain Tumors
- Bone Tumors
- Leukemias
- Lymphomas
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas

CLINICAL TRIALS TO ENHANCE CARE FOR YOUNG ADULT CANCER PATIENTS

Cincinnati Children's is one of the largest centers in the United States for new pediatric and young adult anticancer drug research and stem cell transplantation. In addition, researchers at our \$120 million Proton Therapy Center are developing novel radiation treatments that work with cancer-targeted drug and immune therapies.

Cincinnati Children's Young Adult Cancer Center participates in clinical trials with the following consortia:

- National Cancer Institute (NCI) Pediatric Phase I Consortium
- Children's Oncology Group (COG)
- Collaborative Ependymoma Research Network (CERN)
- Neurofibromatosis Clinical Trials Consortium
- Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Consortium
- Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium
- Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network
- Sarcoma Alliance for Research Through Collaboration
- Therapeutic Advances in Childhood
- Leukemia and Lymphoma (TACL)

Featured Services

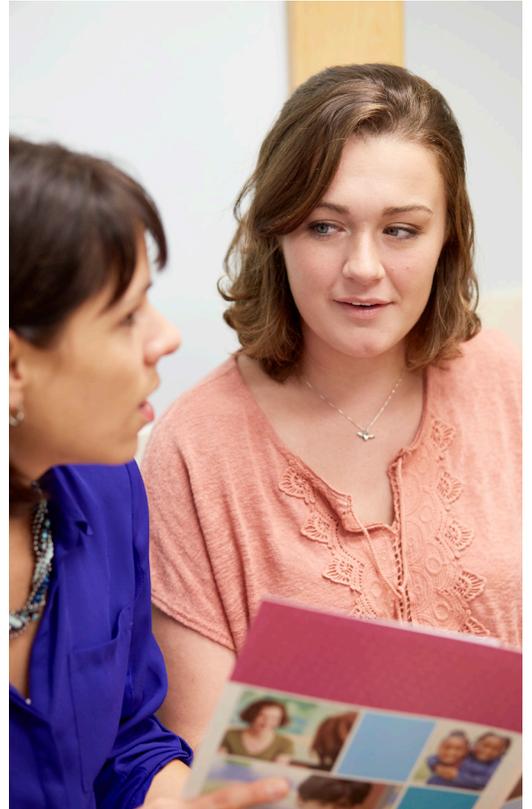
Comprehensive Fertility Care and Preservation Program

Cincinnati Children's was one of the first hospitals in the United States to focus on fertility preservation in patients receiving therapies for pediatric cancers. Standard of care therapies are available for pubertal patients. All patients, including younger children, may be eligible for experimental protocols.

Prior to cancer therapy, patients learn how cancer and its associated treatments can affect fertility and what options may be available for fertility preservation. We offer many preservation options, including:

- Sperm banking
- Embryo and oocyte cryopreservation
- Ovarian transposition
- Ovarian tissue cryopreservation
- Testicular tissue cryopreservation

Following cancer therapy, our team offers re-evaluation to assess gonadal damage, as well as the opportunity to re-engage with the fertility team. We will discuss ongoing risk and any preservation options that might be available after therapy. Our team continues to follow patients throughout their survivorship journey.



Psychosocial Support

Our integrated, multidisciplinary team provides evidence-based psychosocial services designed to promote the behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual outcomes of our young adult patients by addressing common psychosocial challenges such as:

- Feelings of anxiety or depression related to diagnosis and treatment
- Treatment adherence (i.e., medication adherence)
- Disruptions in employment or education due to cancer treatment
- Changes in social relationships and roles
- Pain management
- Helping young children cope with a parent's cancer diagnosis and treatment

Every patient has a dedicated social worker who provides an initial assessment and creates a customized plan of care. The social worker collaborates with the team's psychologists, neuropsychologists, holistic health specialists, chaplains, school interventionists, teachers, music therapists and chaplains to help ensure young adults receive the psychosocial care they need.

In addition, researchers at Cincinnati Children's are leading efforts to understand psychosocial and behavioral functioning among young adult cancer patients and to develop evidence-based treatments that improve the quality of care these patients receive.

LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

For over 30 years, Cincinnati Children's Cancer Survivorship Center has provided specialized medical care and psychosocial support to cancer survivors through adulthood. Patients remain under the care of their primary care physician and return to our clinic annually for thorough risk-based evaluations and screening for late effects of treatments, survivorship education and referrals to other specialist and services as needed.

