SURVIVORSHIP: THE NEXT PHASE OF CARE

At the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, our goal is to provide our patients with strategies to optimize their overall health and wellness — now and in the future. To meet this goal, the Cancer Center has established a Cancer Survivorship Program to ease the transition that follows the completion of active cancer treatment.

The program’s mission is to provide excellent clinical care to patients while fostering research that will lead to further advances in care for cancer survivors.

A key element in survivorship care is developing an individualized treatment summary and plan of care, which provides information on the treatment patients received and how to manage health care in the future. Resources available in Patient and Family Support Services also are an integral part of the transition from active treatment. Nutrition Services, PsychOncology, the Patient Education Resource Center and Complementary Therapies are just a few of the resources that will continue to be available to patients during this transition phase of care.

Survivorship care is an emerging priority in cancer care. The U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center is pursuing research to better understand the needs of cancer survivors so more effective strategies can be developed to address these needs in the future.

TO LEARN MORE about the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center Survivorship Program, visit mcancer.org/survivorship.
THE CLINIC

The University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Pediatric Long-Term Follow-Up Clinic opened in 1999 to meet the needs of individuals diagnosed with a malignancy in childhood or adolescence. Because of the wide-ranging impact of cancer treatment, the clinic focuses on the patient’s total well-being. Survivorship concerns may include changes in growth and development, impaired fertility, organ dysfunction, neurocognitive problems, and school issues. Our goal is to help patients and families learn about health concerns that may follow treatment and strategies to manage these issues.

Patients are referred to the clinic two years after the completion of treatment. Every patient receives a comprehensive treatment summary along with a plan developed in collaboration with members of the clinic’s multidisciplinary team. Patients return to their primary oncology team for continued follow-up through their fourth year after treatment. After patients have been off treatment for five years, they will transition to the Pediatric Long-Term Follow-Up team for annual visits. The Pediatric Long-Term Follow-Up Clinic follows patients until they are between the ages of 18 and 21 or 10 years post treatment, whichever occurs last.

A TYPICAL VISIT

During the initial visit, the patient and family meet with all members of the Pediatric Long-Term Follow-Up Clinic’s team of childhood cancer survivorship specialists. The team includes a nurse practitioner, social worker, pediatric psychologist and dietitian. All team members have extensive education and training in the care of childhood cancer survivors. Patients may also see a pediatric oncologist or pediatric neuro-oncologist if needed.

Our goal is to help childhood cancer survivors remain healthy after active treatment is completed. In addition to a comprehensive physical exam to ensure that the cancer hasn’t recurred, the Pediatric Long-Term Follow-Up visit includes:

- Review of cancer treatment, including a personalized cancer treatment history;
- Monitoring for late occurring side effects of cancer and/or cancer treatments;
- Individualized health care plan based on past treatment;
- Psycho-social/educational assessment;
- Diet and exercise recommendations;
- Laboratory blood testing (as needed);
- Periodic testing of vital organs (as needed);
- Referral to sub-specialties (as needed); and
- Assistance with transition to adult health care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Your primary oncologist or nurse practitioner is the best source of information about the Pediatric Long-Term Follow-Up Clinic. They will help you determine when the time is right for your or your child’s first survivorship visit.

For more information about childhood cancer survivorship, visit mcancer.org/survivorship or call the Patient Education Resource Center at 734-647-8626.

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