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# YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

*Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics*

## **Childhood Cancer**

Childhood cancer is rare and generally not triggered by the same factors that contribute to adult cancers like smoking or environmental toxins. While children who have Down Syndrome or previous cancer are at a higher risk, exactly what triggers childhood cancer is largely unpredictable. But all cancers share one factor: rapidly multiplying cells. Cancer cells grow and multiply so fast that they tend to starve a child of nutrition, resulting in weight loss, bone and organ damage, and weakening of the immune system. Some non-cancerous conditions share symptoms with cancer, making it sometimes difficult to diagnose. Treatment for childhood cancer can include chemotherapy, radiation, or surgery depending on the child's age and type of cancer.

*HINT: Thanks to medical advances, up to 70% of children with cancer can be cured.*

**If you would like further information about today's column, contact our office. here, we see patients from infancy to adolescence and care for a spectrum of child ailments. We take time to listen, and make sure your child's visit is a positive experience by offering individual care and compassionate, gentle treatment. To schedule an appointment, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS AT 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are welcome.**

[www.midcoastpediatricspa.com](http://www.midcoastpediatricspa.com)