

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [646-926-0945](tel:646-926-0945) to make an appointment.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

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FOR THE MEDIA

Making an Appointment

For more information about the Long-Term Follow-Up Program or to make an appointment, call [833-675-5437](tel:833-675-5437)

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The road from a child's cancer diagnosis to treatment and recovery can be a long one. While you and your child may feel relieved that this part of the journey is over, many parents also find themselves wondering, what now?

At MSK Kids, our answer is simple: Don't worry; we will always be here for you.

The cancer survivorship experts in our Long-Term Follow-Up Program start working with your child's care team within one to two years after therapy is completed. We recognize that follow-up care is critical to the health and well-being of children and teenagers who have been treated for cancer. MSK Kids provides screening, monitoring, and health recommendations. We notice and take care of any late complications

that may come up and ensure that your child has the best quality of life possible.

## **A History of Leadership**

The Long-Term Follow-Up Program at MSK Kids is one of the oldest programs for childhood cancer survivors in the country. We have participated in the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS), a major multicenter study, since its launch in 1994. This investigation tracks short-term and long-term complications, side effects, and the overall health of people treated for cancer as children. We also have our own large clinical research database containing information about the many young patients we've treated at MSK as far back as 1991. We can use that to look for answers to today's questions about the health of pediatric cancer survivors. We work toward the best health for your child by coupling this research with our state-of-the-art patient care.

## **Who is eligible for pediatric cancer survivorship services?**

We begin to care for children and teens one to two years after they complete cancer treatment and continue until age 21. While most of our patients were treated at MSK Kids, we also care for pediatric cancer survivors who were treated elsewhere.

## **Why is a survivorship program important?**

Some, but not all, pediatric cancer survivors experience delayed effects of treatment. Also called late effects, these may arise in the short term or many years later. Through the CCSS, we have been learning about the health of childhood cancer survivors as they enter their 20s, 30s, 40s, and beyond. We and other experts want to understand the effects of various cancer treatments so we can learn how to prevent and treat them in the future. Thanks to the CCSS, doctors now know which treatments have been the most toxic and try to reduce their use whenever possible.

## **What You Can Expect**

When your child finishes treatment, they will still see their primary medical care team to look for any signs of the cancer coming back. Our survivorship team begins working with your child's primary doctor to check their heart and lungs, monitor their growth and development, and see if there are any cognitive (thinking) or learning issues related to treatment. Each child's risk of late effects is unique. It depends on such factors as age, gender, cancer type and stage, and type of treatment. Our team customizes a care plan that includes screening and counseling to meet your child's individual needs. Here's what you can expect:

- Your child's treatment summary — Our team reviews and summarizes your child's medical records

and meets with a number of our experts to discuss past treatment. This group includes a radiation oncologist, neuropsychologist, cardiologist, and your child's primary medical oncologist. Together, we develop a plan for your child's future healthcare.

- Initial consultation — During your child's first visit with us, we review the treatment summary, perform a complete medical exam, and discuss our recommended care plan with you. We will explain to you and your child the potential long-term effects of treatment and how we will monitor for them in the future.
- Screening for and treating late effects — Finding and treating late effects caused by cancer treatment as early as possible gives your child the best chance of a healthy life. Some late effects involve the endocrine (hormonal) system, which can affect their height, delay puberty, and cause thyroid problems. Other late effects involve the heart and lungs. Some children may have learning difficulties. Our team performs blood tests and other exams to look for all the late effects related to your child's treatment. We will refer your child to appropriate specialists as needed.
- Referrals and coordination of healthcare — Your child's pediatrician and other doctors are an important part of their care, and we don't want our program to replace that. We work closely with those doctors, staying in touch and making sure we are all on the same page. Once your child finishes cancer treatment, we recommend that you continue primary care through a healthcare provider near your home who is available for sick visits as well as routine physicals. We can also connect you with outside resources for childhood cancer survivors.

## What happens when my child turns 21?

We have a program for adults, too: Memorial Sloan Kettering's [Adult Survivorship Program](#). Here, we provide long-term care that can help prevent, detect, and treat any late effects of cancer treatment that may arise in adulthood. Across the country, many childhood cancer survivors who are 21 and older do not receive the required monitoring they need as young adults — a major challenge in healthcare. We created the Adult Survivorship Program to fill that gap. Our survivorship team is here for you and your child for a lifetime.

## Our experts can help you choose a clinical trial that's right for you.

Search by keywords:

and/or

Trial phase:

10 Clinical Trials found

### [A Long-Term Study of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Women with Breast Cancer and Lymphoma](#)

Cancer and its treatment may affect sexual and reproductive health. The purpose of this study is to evaluate sexual and reproductive health over several years among women age 50 and younger newly diagnosed with breast cancer or lymphoma.

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### [A Study Assessing Quality of Life in People with Skin Conditions Due to Cancer or Its Treatment](#)

Skin (dermatologic) conditions are common in people who are receiving or have received cancer treatment. Sometimes the condition is related to the cancer, and sometimes it is related to cancer treatment. In either case, skin conditions can affect a person's quality of life.

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### [A Study Assessing the Effects of Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy on Reproductive and Sexual Health in People with Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer](#)

The purpose of this study is to find out how cancer treatments (chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy) affect reproductive and sexual health in people with early-onset colorectal cancer (diagnosed before age 50). Researchers will observe and track changes in hormone levels and in sexual and reproductive health in the study participants. This information will help them learn more about how cancer treatments affect reproductive and sexual health, including the ability to have children (fertility).

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### [A Study Comparing Music Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Anxiety in Cancer Survivors](#)

Many cancer survivors suffer from anxiety. Anxiety may involve feelings of restlessness, muscle tension, and worry. Anxiety has also been linked to poor sleep, depressed mood, and tiredness. Researchers are doing this study to see how music therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy may be able to reduce anxiety and these other symptoms. Both music therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy are routinely used to treat anxiety.

[New York City](#)

## [A Study to See if Heart Cells Can Be Generated from Blood or Skin Cells of Breast Cancer Patients](#)

Patients receiving certain drugs for breast cancer, such as doxorubicin or trastuzumab, may experience impaired heart function. Researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center are conducting a study to see if it is possible to grow heart muscle cells ("cardiomyocytes") from blood or skin cells from breast cancer patients. The skin cells will be grown in a special mixture in the laboratory designed to transform them from skin cells into heart muscle cells.

[New York City](#)

## [An Observational Study of Bone Complications in People With Postmenopausal Breast Cancer Who Stopped Treatment With Denosumab and Aromatase Inhibitors](#)

Aromatase inhibitors (AIs) are medications that interfere with estrogen production and are used to reduce the risk of breast cancer recurrence in many people with breast cancer that is fueled by estrogen. One side effect of AI treatment is a decrease in bone strength, which can lead to bones becoming weak and brittle. The bones may then break (fracture) more easily.

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## [Breast Cancer and the Workforce: Talking to Employers and Medical Staff About Work \(TEAMWork\)](#)

Chemotherapy can cause symptoms, such as nausea and fatigue, and some patients have difficulty working during this treatment. The purpose of this study is to learn more about how chemotherapy for breast cancer affects patients' employment.

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## [Effect of Treatment on Quality of Life in Survivors of Retinoblastoma in One Eye](#)

The purpose of this study is to see how treatment for retinoblastoma in one eye affects quality of life in survivors of this cancer who had chemotherapy (injected into the eye) or surgery to remove the eye. Researchers will ask participants about their physical and emotional health and ability to perform daily activities. They want to determine if there are any differences between these treatments with respect

to their effect on quality of life. It is hoped that this information will help doctors provide better care for children with retinoblastoma in the future and better follow-up care for survivors of this cancer.

[New York City](#)

## [Evaluation of Grief Therapy Approaches for Bereaved Parents](#)

The purpose of this study is to compare three types of support for parents who have experienced the death of a child due to cancer. The study team will assess how these different types of support affect participants' grief and depression symptoms. The three types of support parents may receive are called Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy, Supportive Counseling, and Enhanced Usual Care.

[New York City](#)

## [Patient Satisfaction with Facial Appearance and Scar Outcome after Skin Cancer Surgery](#)

Surgery is the primary treatment for skin cancer. Patients' perception of the scar following surgery for facial skin cancer may significantly influence their satisfaction with their care. The purpose of this study is to assess patients' satisfaction with the appearance of their face and scar after skin cancer surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), as well as their quality of life after the surgery.

[New York City](#)

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