



FAQ about cancer

1. What is cancer?

Cancer is an illness that can affect anyone, including children. It is a group of life-threatening diseases where abnormal cells grow uncontrollably and can spread to other parts of the body.

2. What causes cancer?

The cause of childhood cancer is often unknown. It can occur because of inherited conditions that cause genetic mutations. Most cancers in children, like those in adults, are thought to develop as a result of mutations in genes that lead to uncontrolled cell growth and eventually cancer.

3. Is cancer genetic?

Cancer can be genetic, but is not always. In adults, there are risk factors to cancer such as tobacco, obesity and sun exposure. For children, it is often genetic.

4. Is cancer genetic?

No, cancer does not spread from person to person like an infectious disease.

5. Is it true if you get cancer, you die?

If you get cancer you do have a high risk of dying, but with treatment that risk decreases.

6. How many children with cancer has AHC treated so far?

Since 2012, we have cared for over 700 children over 3,750 appointments.

7. What should I do if I think my child has cancer?

To diagnose cancer many tests are needed. Childhood cancer is rare but if you are worried that your child has cancer, you should ask your doctor to exclude the diagnosis or refer you to somewhere that can do that.

Symptoms that could be because of cancer:

- Unexplained weight loss
- Very easy bruising or a rash that does not disappear when you press it
- A lump or mass that develops
- Changes in the look of your child's eye – looks cloudy or starts to stick out

These symptoms do not necessarily mean your child has cancer but they need checking out as soon as possible.

8. How does AHC treat cancer?

It depends on the type of cancer. Our approach combines surgery, chemotherapy, laser therapy, cryotherapy and pain management.

We care for all emotional needs of the child and their family through counselling and practical support like travel stipends and food packages.

Parents receive education about their child's condition, treatment plan, and treatment side effects and how to care for their child at home.

9. What type of cancer are treated at AHC?

We treated over 30 types of cancer.

The most common cancers treated at AHC are eye and blood cancers.

10. How much does it cost to treat cancer?

For AHC to run its cancer ward, it costs about \$490,000 each year—depending on the number of patients. All treatment at AHC is funded by donations. On average, it costs \$3,100 to treat a child with cancer.

Treatment at AHC is completely free to those that cannot afford to contribute.