Cook Children's

Referring to our retinoblastoma clinic

Hematology and Oncology Center

Who is diagnosed with retinoblastoma?

Retinoblastoma is a rare pediatric cancer of the eye. There are around 350 new cases diagnosed in the United States each year. Retinoblastoma is a rare pediatric cancer of the eye, most often diagnosed in infants and toddlers. It exists in sporadic and heritable forms and can occur as unilateral or bilateral disease.

Symptoms

Symptoms are usually noticed by the parent or caregiver and may include, but are not limited to:

- Leukocoria (or white pupil) – eyes do not look normal, and are often described as a "cat eye" or glazed look.
- When a light is directed at the eye, the pupil looks white rather than red (often noticed in photographs).
- Strabismus – eyes may appear to be crossed or looking in different directions.

Less common symptoms may include:

- Growth in the size of the eye
- Eye pain
- Redness in the white part of the eye
- Tearing
- Pupils that do not respond to light
- Change in iris color

Testing and diagnostic procedures

Early diagnosis improves the chance of successful treatment.

Screening

- All children should have regular eye screenings by their primary care physicians with prompt referral to pediatric ophthalmologists for any abnormalities.
- Children with a family history of retinoblastoma should have regular eye exams by a pediatric ophthalmologist starting at birth.

Once seen by a pediatric ophthalmologist, the following tests may be performed:

- Dilated eye exam
- Ultrasound
- MRI of the brain and orbits
- CT scan

For non-emergent referrals and consults contact:

Hematology and Oncology Center
682-885-4007

Simulation of leukocoria

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Treatment

Prompt recognition of symptoms and referral to a pediatric ophthalmologist and a pediatric oncologist is important to preserve the patient's vision and to increase the chance for survival. Options vary, depending on whether the disease is limited to the eye or has spread, and how large and where in the eye the tumor is located.

Treatments include:

- Surgery
- Cryotherapy
- Thermotherapy
- Photocoagulation
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation therapy
  - Intravitreal
  - Intra-arterial
  - Systemic

Retinoblastoma clinic

When you refer to Cook Children's Hematology and Oncology Center, your patients have access to a comprehensive, multidisciplinary retinoblastoma clinic that includes:

- A board certified pediatric hematology and oncology physician and pediatric ophthalmologists dedicated to treating retinoblastoma patients.
- A certified pediatric nurse practitioner involved in coordinating and assuring quality care for individuals within the Dallas/Fort Worth region and surrounding areas.
- Retinal specialists to provide assessment and localized treatment of tumors.
- Ocular prosthetics to provide initial prosthesis, as well as to provide revisions and care of prosthesis in patients that require enucleation.
- Access to genetic testing and counseling.
- A neurointerventional radiologist, Ron Gerstle, M.D., for intra-arterial chemotherapy.

Ongoing care

Genetic counseling

- This may help determine the risk of developing retinoblastoma.
- If an individual has retinoblastoma or a family history of the diagnosis, genetic counseling should be obtained prior to having children.

Monitoring for recurrence

- Patients who have been treated for retinoblastoma require regular eye exams to assess the success of treatment and to check for recurrence or the presence of bilateral disease.

Monitoring for other cancers

- Children with retinoblastoma are at increased risk for tumors and other cancers in the body. They should continue regular follow-up care with a pediatric oncologist.

Cook Direct Connect

682-885-1940

To better serve our treating clinicians, we can assist you with:

- Non-emergent transfer requests
- Direct admissions
- Specialist consultations

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