

Early Detection – A key to success

Cancer knows no boundaries and affects Children throughout the world. It is estimated that about 1,60,000 children around the world are diagnosed with cancer each year. The exact number of new cases each year is not known as Cancer registers do not exist in every country. Eighty percent of all children with cancer live in developing countries, where access to effective therapy is limited and the disease is often detected too late or not at all.

The types of cancer that occur in children differ greatly from those found in adults. Treatment and Survival rates also differ very much. It is vital to be aware of the symptoms of childhood cancers as most are interpreted as common childhood ailments and often misdiagnosed.

Signs and Symptoms of Common Childhood Cancer.

The earlier cancer is detected, the better the chance that the child will survive. Although the signs and symptoms depend upon the type of cancer and location within the body, at least 85 % of childhood cancer is associated with the following warning signs.

- Unusual abdominal mass or swelling
- Prolonged and unexplained fever.
- Pallor, loss of energy and rapid weight loss
- Unexplained and prolonged pain and headaches, often with vomiting
- Easy bruises and unexplained bleeding
- Sudden change in balance or behavior
- Swollen head
- White glow in eye

On World Cancer Day UICC will launch 14 projects in 10 low and middle income countries to help improve early detection's, care and support of children with cancer "These projects will help communicate the message that childhood cancer can be treated and is often curable," says Dr. Franco Cavalli, Chair of the UICC, Childhood Campaign Advisory Committee.