



## Cancer in Children

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One million new cancer cases is being reported in India annually with 3% of it being pediatric malignancies according to the GLOBOCON 2020 data [1]. These 50,000 new cases comprise almost 20% of all the pediatric cancers being reported in the world [2].

India had never had a national childhood cancer registry per se. The National Cancer Control Programme has mainly focused on preventive measures like smoking cessation and screening programmes for cervical and head and neck cancers which make up the major bulk of the cases being reported thus keeping all busy with the management of these cancers. But then what about the other cancers being reported?

India has taken great care in terms of child health which is evident with the great progress achieved in improving the health indices as is evident from the child mortality rates all through the strengthening of primary health care in every corner of India. The childhood infectious diseases of pneumonia and diarrhoea were excellently been managed with these methods. But when it comes to childhood cancer's there is no standard measure taken to improve it.

As said a child's fate is not just determined by the time it's born or its place of birth as is widely believed but it also depends on their access to healthcare. Providing good healthcare to its citizens is one of the many goals of each country and India has succeeded a great way in it.

How can we improve the childhood cancer care? For that we first need to recognize it as one among the mainstream health concerns just like diarrhoea or pneumonia that occurs in the pediatric age group. Second, newer policies need to be brought in to strengthen primary health care so that early detection is possible.