

PEDIATRIC CANCER OUTCOMES INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

BURDEN OF CHILDHOOD CANCER

- Every year in Ontario, more than 400 children are diagnosed with cancer.
- 82% of children with cancer survive, an increase of 11% from a decade earlier.
- Approximately 2/3 of survivors of childhood cancer face late effects of their disease and treatment, including neurocognitive impairments, fertility issues and secondary cancers.

PEDIATRIC CANCER OUTCOMES INITIATIVE (PCOI)

- PCOI is a collaborative research initiative of the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario and the Canadian Cancer Society in Ontario.
- PCOI research will lead to better support for the increasing number of childhood and adolescent cancer survivors in Ontario, all of whom deserve the best opportunities possible.
- PCOI will support valuable research to improve the quality of outcomes for children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer and their families, including improving treatment-related late effects.

PCOI RESEARCH

- Four key projects will be undertaken to achieve the initiative's goals:
 1. Development of a unique platform for future research on childhood cancer outcomes and late effects, through the addition of treatment and outcome information from 1985 to 1994 to the POGONIS database.
 2. A grant competition supporting high quality research projects that will form the basis for innovative interventions to improve the outcomes and quality of life for children with cancer and their families.
 3. An in-depth analysis of the incidence, outcomes and determinants of cancer in adolescents and young adults in Ontario; a largely understudied population that experiences many unique treatment and care-related issues.
 4. A comprehensive evaluation of survivor information needs to equip survivors with the resources and information needed to make informed decisions about their future health. The Passport to Health (a personalized resource containing the complete history of a survivor's cancer journey, including treatment information) is a key component of this evaluation.

THE COLLABORATORS

- The Canadian Cancer Society works to prevent cancer, save lives and support those living with cancer. As the leading national charitable funder of cancer research, last year the Society invested more than \$48 million in research, supporting the best cancer scientists across Canada fighting back against cancer.
- The Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario is a leader in developing exemplary and highly coordinated systems of childhood cancer care and control, and is the official advisor to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on childhood cancer care and control. Because cancer-free doesn't mean the end of the journey, POGO is there from diagnosis through treatment and beyond.