



Daisy's Eye Cancer Fund
A Global Response To Childhood Retinoblastoma

Childhood Cancer Factsheet

- ❖ 7million people die from cancer each year, accounting for 12% of all deaths globally. Cancer kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.
- ❖ Globally, cancer is the second highest cause of death in children aged between one to fourteen years.
- ❖ An estimated 200,000 children develop cancer each year around the world, and more than 140,000 of those children will eventually die. In reality these figures may be higher, as many countries in the developing world do not have established cancer registries, and many children die before being diagnosed.
- ❖ 84% of children with cancer live in developing countries, where medical care and expertise is often basic or non-existent. They receive less than 5% of global childhood cancer funds.
- ❖ Due to global population distribution, 92% of children with retinoblastoma live in less economically developed countries,
- ❖ More than 2,000 children develop retinoblastoma in Africa each year.
- ❖ In developed countries, retinoblastoma accounts for about 3-4% of cancers in children aged under 14. In Africa, that figure may be as high as 15% due to larger numbers of children under the age of five years.
- ❖ As post-natal care improves in developing countries, and more children survive their first year, there will be a concurrent rise in the number of retinoblastoma cases.
- ❖ Overall, more than 96% of children treated for retinoblastoma in developed countries will be successfully treated. However, less than 20% of children will survive five years beyond diagnosis in developing countries. Survival is lower than 5% in some African countries.
- ❖ Children do not die from primary retinoblastoma that is contained in the eye, but from cancer that has spread beyond the eye due to late diagnosis and inappropriate or incomplete medical care. With early detection and treatment, this cancer is 100% curable.

Based on statistics from the International Agency for Research on Cancer and Daisy's Eye Cancer Fund.