

Follow-up Clinics that Specialize in Treating Survivors of Childhood Cancer

In recent months there has been considerable press regarding the *New England Journal of Medicine's* October 12, 2006 article titled "Chronic Health Conditions in Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer."

Oeffinger K. C., Mertens A. C., Sklar C. A., Kawashima T., Hudson M. M., Meadows A. T., Friedman D. L., Marina N., Hobbie W., Kadan-Lottick N. S., Schwartz C. L., Leisenring W., Robison L. L., the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study. *N Engl J Med* 2006; 355:1572-1582, Oct 12, 2006.

This important article from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study emphasizes the need for survivors of childhood cancer to seek medical care from clinics and providers who are knowledgeable in the long-term effects of childhood cancer treatment. These clinics are called long-term follow-up clinics. Unlike general practice units that may only occasionally see an adult survivor of childhood cancer, these facilities specialize in diagnosing and treating the late effects of childhood cancer and provide the follow-up required. To assist you in finding a late effects clinic in your area the Children's Oncology Group maintains a Late Effects directory of services on their web site, <http://www.childrensoncologygroup.org>. If you do not have internet access please call us and we will assist you in finding a late effects unit in your area.



Are There Scholarships Available for Survivors of Childhood Cancer?

A frequent question we receive from Wilms tumor survivors is whether there are any scholarships available to help pay for college. We all know paying for college is expensive and any help with the finances would be appreciated. This is especially true for families that have dealt with cancer and often exhausted their resources.

The good news now is that there are scholarships and grants specifically for survivors of childhood cancer. In fact, we have seen a growing number of scholarships available to students with a history of cancer while there were none just a couple of years ago. The best place to start looking is on the Internet.

Here are some links to scholarships and financial aid information online:

- The American Cancer Society (<http://www.cancer.org/docroot/home/index.asp>)
- FastWeb (<http://www.fastweb.com/>)
- College Board (<http://www.collegeboard.org/>)
- Federal Student Aid Programs (<http://studentaid.ed.gov/>)
- American Council on Education (<http://www.collegeispossible.org>)
- College Scholarships (<http://www.collegescholarships.com>)
- FinAid (<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/cancer.phtml>)

We urge individuals to research other organizations in their communities, churches, and local and regional libraries. Some departments may offer additional scholarships that are not publicized. Many scholarships require an essay as part of their application. This would be a great opportunity to share your experience in overcoming cancer. Good luck! If you have other sources to share, please let us know.

