

LATE BREAKING news

from the **National Wilms Tumor Study**

Why Does the NWTs Request Medical Records for Pregnancies?

Over the years the questions we receive most frequently from you regard pregnancy and men's and women's fertility issues. Until eight years ago we did not have well documented information to use in answering your questions. We thus began to systematically collect information from mothers and fathers regarding their, or their partners', pregnancies and deliveries.

In order to provide you with accurate answers we must document all aspects of pregnancies with medical records. These enable us to document types and degrees of complications, the babies' birth weights, as well as the babies' health status. We quantify these in order to compare pregnancy events to the parent's treatment for Wilms tumor.

In 2001 we published our first findings relating pregnancies to treatment. In our Winter 2001 newsletter, we included an overview of this paper. If you did not receive a copy of this first newsletter and would like one please let us know. Some were quite surprised at the findings. Twenty-five or more years ago girls who received abdominal radiotherapy as part of their treatment were often told they would never have children. We found out this is not always true. Abdominal radiotherapy can affect the duration of pregnancy and

thus the baby's height and weight at birth. However, we found that only when the radiotherapy is given to a specific site in the abdomen is fertility affected.

Those early findings are still preliminary because we have not heard about all of our



NWTs participants' pregnancies. We are sure there is much more to understand about the relationship between treatment and pregnancy, and we need help from all of you. Please let us know about your pregnancies or if you have fathered a child, and please understand why we request your permission to obtain medical records. We want to provide you with the best answers

possible. You can pass these study findings along to the physicians and others caring for you during pregnancy to contribute to the safest possible pregnancies and deliveries.

If you or your partner have had a pregnancy and you do not think it has been reported to us, or if you are not sure, please call us at **206-667-4842** or email us at nwtsg@fhcrc.org.

National Wilms Tumor Study

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

1100 Fairview Avenue North
PO Box 19024
Seattle, WA 98109

206.667.4842
800.553.4878
fax 206.667.6623

www.nwtsg.org
nwtsg@fhcrc.org