OVERVIEW

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Program at the Pediatric Brain Center of UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals specializes in the treatment of brain and spinal cord tumors. The program focuses on patients from birth to young adulthood with a comprehensive, research-driven approach to brain tumor treatment.

Our team is composed of pediatric cancer specialists, pediatric neurosurgeons, pediatric nurse practitioners, social workers, child life specialists and a school liaison. We also offer a comprehensive multidisciplinary clinic, including an endocrinologist, a neuropsychologist and an ophthalmologist.

FAST FACTS

- Approximately 3,000 children in the United States are diagnosed with brain tumors each year, most between the ages of 3 and 12 years. These tumors are very different from brain tumors in adults and are generally more responsive to treatment.

FEATURES

- The Pediatric Brain Tumor Program utilizes MRI scanning during operations to increase the accuracy of surgery and is one of only a few centers in California offering noninvasive treatment with the Gamma Knife and CyberKnife radiotherapy systems.

INFORMATION / REFERRALS

- Pediatric Access Center: (877) 822-4453 or (877) UC-CHILD
  Immediate referrals, referral status and appointments
- Pediatric Brain Center: (855) 722-8273 or (855) PBC-UCSF
  Nonemergency referrals or second opinions
ALL CONDITIONS TREATED

We treat all brain tumor types, including rare and complex tumors, with specialty in the diagnosis and treatment of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), diffuse midline glioma (DMG) and neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1). For tumors that are difficult to treat with standard therapy, patients have the opportunity to enroll in clinical trials.

HIGHLIGHTED TREATMENTS

- Minimally invasive surgery, intraoperative MRI and brain mapping
- Advanced radiation treatments, including CyberKnife, Gamma Knife and intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
- Advanced therapeutics: central nervous system (CNS)-directed delivery, transplant, immunotherapy and biological targeted agents

WHY REFER TO UCSF?

- Our pediatric brain tumor research spans multiple research specialties, with a particular focus on understanding brain development and finding new treatments.
- Our facilities are equipped with the most up-to-date imaging and surgical navigation system, including intraoperative MRI, allowing removal of the tumor while protecting structures critical to normal brain function.
- At a weekly tumor board, experts in neuro-oncology, neurosurgery and neurology are joined by specialists in neuropathology, radiology and genomics to collaborate and optimize care for individual patients.
- We work closely with local and national organizations, support groups and community resources for children and their families.
- Our dedicated Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) program provides both primary and specialty care during the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

CLINICAL TRIALS

- UCSF is leading the way in research for new treatments. We give our patients the opportunity to participate in studies of promising new medications and treatments. Our clinical trials provide patient access to experimental treatments such as new forms of radiation therapy or chemotherapy.
- One research project involves a pioneering, new drug delivery approach for pediatric brain tumors, called convection-enhanced delivery, in which an experimental, targeted anti-tumor agent is directly injected into the tumor to pre-empt a recurrence if possible.
- UCSF is the lead institution for the Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (PNOC), a network of children’s hospitals that perform clinical trials of therapies specific to the molecular profiles of a patient’s tumor.

OUR TEAM

Pediatric Neuro-Oncologists
Anuradha Banerjee, MD, MPH
Christina Coleman Abadi, DO
Caroline Hastings, MD
Sabine Mueller, MD, PhD
Michael Prados, MD
Alyssa Reddy, MD
Jessica Schulte, MD, PhD

Pediatric Neurosurgeons
Kurtis Auguste, MD
Mitchel Berger, MD
Nalin Gupta, MD, PhD
Jarod Roland, MD
Peter Sun, MD

Pediatric Rehabilitation Specialists
Christine Aguilar, MD
Jonathan Bixby, MD
Taron Davis, MD
Robert Haining, MD
Mitul Kapadia, MD
Thomas McNalley, MD
Yumi Mitsuya, MD
Mal Ngo, MD

Pediatric Endocrinologist
Maya Lodish, MD

Neuropsychologists
Dina Hankin, PhD
Shannon Lundy, PhD
Wendy Santos-Modesitt, PhD

Radiation Oncologists
Steve Braunstein, MD, PhD
David Raleigh, MD, PhD

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