

# What are the facts?

## It's more common than you think!

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### Childhood Cancer

- One in every 330 Americans will develop cancer by the age of 20. On the average, 12,500 children and adolescents in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer each year, of those, over 2300 will die.<sup>1</sup>
- Cancer is the leading cause of death from disease in children between the ages of 1 and 19.<sup>1</sup>
- In the U.S., about 46 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer every weekday. The incidence of childhood cancer has increased every year for the last 25 years.<sup>1</sup>

### Neuroblastoma

- Neuroblastoma is the most common cancer found in infants, almost double that of leukemia, and the most common solid tumor cancer in children, second only to brain tumors.<sup>1</sup>
- There is no known cause or cure for neuroblastoma.<sup>1</sup>
- Neuroblastoma accounts for 97% of the cancers of the Sympathetic Nervous System.<sup>1</sup>
- Neuroblastoma accounts for 14% of all cancers in children younger than five years of age.<sup>1</sup>

## It's deadlier than you know!

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### Childhood Cancer

- Young patients often have a more advanced stage of cancer when first diagnosed. Approximately 20% of adults with cancer show evidence the disease has spread, yet almost 80% of children show that the cancer has spread at diagnosis.<sup>1</sup>
- Today, up to 75% of the children with cancer can be cured, yet some forms of childhood cancer have proven so resistant to treatment that, in spite of research, a cure is illusive.<sup>1</sup>

### Neuroblastoma

- Nearly 70% of those children first diagnosed, have disease that has already metastasized or spread to other parts of the body. The average age at diagnosis is two years old.<sup>1</sup>
- Neuroblastoma is an aggressive solid tumor cancer that strikes mainly young children and has less than a 30% chance of survival when evidence at diagnosis shows that the disease has spread<sup>1</sup>

## And, it doesn't have the money to get any better!

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### Childhood Cancer

- The largest children's oncology group in North America which supports the clinical and biological research at over 200 participating institutions and treats about 90% of the children with received less than half of its requested budget from the federal government this year.<sup>2</sup>
- The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) federal budget for 2003 was \$4.6 billion. Of that, breast cancer received 12%, prostate cancer received 7%, and all 12 major groups of pediatric cancers **combined** received less than 3%.<sup>3</sup>

### Neuroblastoma

- Neuroblastoma accounts for 7-10% of all childhood cancers and well over 15% of the deaths; and yet neuroblastoma is only designated to receive 5% of the research dollars from a national pediatric cancer fundraising initiative.<sup>3</sup>
- Historically, for every dollar received through federal grants and private donations by this very organization less than \$.03 goes towards funding neuroblastoma research grants, awards, and fellowships.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: National Cancer Institute SEER Report

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Cancer Foundation Annual Report 2002

<sup>3</sup> CureSearch Case Statement and Funding Plan, Fiscal 2004

