CHILDHOOD CANCER
WARNING SIGNS

IF THESE SYMPTOMS ARE PRESENT REFER FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION

1

Pallor, bruising or bleeding, general bone pain

2

Lumps or swelling – especially if painless and without fever or other signs of infection

3

Unexplained weight loss or fever, persistent cough or shortness of breath, sweating at night

4

Eye changes – white pupil, new-onset squint, visual loss, bruising or swelling around the eye(s)

5

Abdominal swelling

6

Headaches, especially if unusually persistent or severe, vomiting (especially early morning or worsening over days)

7

Limb or bone pain, swelling without trauma or signs of infection

8

Fatigue, lethargy and changes in behaviour, such as being withdrawn

9

Dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

uicc global cancer control
A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER

SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE D'ONCOLOGIE PÉDIATRIQUE
SIOP
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

Childhood Cancer International

PRESENTING SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS	COMMON DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS (NON MALIGNANT CONDITIONS)	SUSPECTED CANCER DISEASE
Low blood counts	Infection	! Leukaemia
Bleeding	Coagulation disorders, platelet disorders, bone marrow failure	! Leukaemia
Lymph node swelling	Infection	! Burkitt-Lymphoma (BL), Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL), Hodgkin Lymphoma
Abdominal swelling	Nutrition disorder, kidney cyst, constipation, ovarial cyst, hepatosplenomegaly, haemoglobinopathy, Kidney tuberculosis	! Wilms tumour, ovarian tumour, BL & other NHL, bladder rhabdomyosarcoma, neuroblastoma.
Mediastinal mass with shortness of breath	Infection	! Lymphoma Neuroblastoma
White pupil	Congenital cataract	! Retinoblastoma
Headache, morning vomiting, ataxia, impaired vision, paresis	Migraine, sinusits, menigitis if associated with fever (infection)	! Brain tumour
Bone pain, swelling of arm or leg without trauma or infection	Bone cyst, osteomyelitis	! Bone tumour