



DVD

My Friend Needs My Help Awareness about paediatric cancer

Learning tool to raise cancer awareness created for elementary students in Quebec.

This video was created to raise student awareness about cancer.

After viewing, you can expect students to ask questions regarding the illness or about Leucan.

leucan 

My Friend Needs My Help - Awareness about paediatric cancer



Chapter One : My friend Mary What is cancer?

☺ What is the name of the student who is worried about his friend Sarah?

Answer: Anthony

☺ Is cancer a contagious illness?

Answer: No

☺ Following Sarah's surgery, how will the doctors treat the cancerous cells?

Answer: There are two ways to eliminate these cells:

- Bombard the cells with rays - this is called radiation therapy
or
- Take medication to kill the cancer cells - this is called chemotherapy.

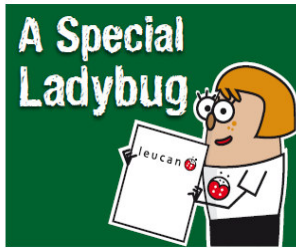
☺ What is one of the side-effects of Sarah's treatments?

Answer: Sarah's hair will fall out but will eventually grow back. And it won't hurt at all!



Did you know....
EMBLEM: A LADYBUG

This symbolic little insect was chosen by the children of Leucan to represent them. While ladybugs have no hair just like many of the children during treatment, they remain cute and very lovable. The ladybug also has other qualities: it is a type of beetle that symbolized regeneration in ancient Egypt and, according to a Middle Age legend, the ladybug is considered a symbol of good luck. Therefore, the little ladybug symbolizes healing potential and hope for our children.



Chapter Two: A Special Ladybug What does Leucan do?

☺ Who takes care of Sarah at the hospital?

Answer: The doctors, the nurses, the social workers and a ladybug (the Leucan ladybug!)

☺ What is Leucan?

Answer: It is an Association that helps children with cancer and their families.

☺ How will Leucan help Sarah's parents?

Answer: Leucan will help in several ways:

- Leucan will help them financially if they need money;
- Her parents could participate in a family respite weekend (these escapes allow parents a break to recharge their batteries and to share their experiences with other parents).

☺ How will Leucan help Sarah?

Answer: Leucan will also help Sarah in several ways:

- Leucan will arrange massage-therapy;
- At the hospital, she can play in the game room; Leucan will suggest several activities such as going to the Leucan-CSN Summer Camp.

☺ Who else receives money from Leucan?

Answer: Leucan gives money to researchers to help them find new medicines to help cure more children.

Did you know....

LEUCAN MISSION STATEMENT

Leucan is an Association whose **mission is to help cancer-stricken children and their families believe in a brighter future.**

Leucan, an extended family with members across the province of Quebec

More than 3,200 families benefiting from its services

Nearly 2,000 volunteers

Over 65 employees



Chapter Three: A Money Box for Leucan

How can you help?

- ☺ How can Anthony help Leucan?

Answer: By bringing a Leucan money box to trick & treat at Halloween.

- ☺ What is included with the money box for Halloween?

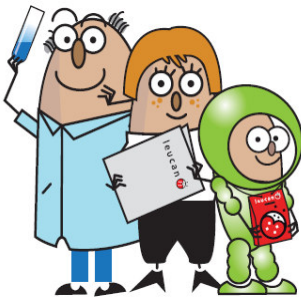
Answer: A little booklet

- ☺ What's inside the booklet?

Answer: The booklet contains information about what Leucan does for children with cancer and includes coloring games.

- ☺ Is there another way to help Leucan?

Answer: Yes.... by counting the money collected in the money box.



Did you know....
LEUCAN

Leucan looks after its families at each phase of the illness by providing specific and adapted services.

Leucan is present in all walks of family life whether it be at the hospital, at home, at school, in social life or in the public eye, by means of financial assistance, hosting, emotional support and assistance, information, organized activities and supervision in playrooms, massage therapy at the hospital and at home, socio-recreational activities, support groups, School Life programs, end-of-life and grief counseling.

To help you answer frequently asked questions asked by children and... adults!

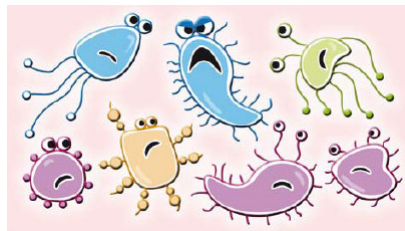


How do you get cancer?

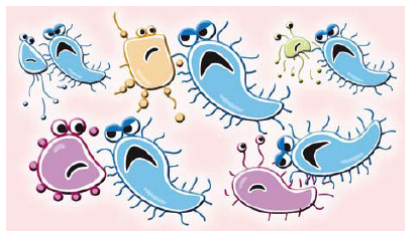
Cancer is not contagious. A child can hug, play, kiss, lend toys to his/her brother, sister or a sick friend, and never become sick.

Our body is made of billions of tiny cells which unite to form organs or systems of organs.

All of a sudden one of these small cells rebels and refuses to act like the others.



It then becomes abnormal, multiplying erratically and giving birth to many other rebel cells such as itself. All these cells are sick. They no longer obey the laws controlling the body and begin destroying everything around them.



These are known as cancerous cells.

Does this mean we can get this illness at any moment?

No one is safe from cancer. Cancer can develop in very young children as in the elderly, in people who do not eat well as in those who try to eat right, in smokers or non-smokers, in active or sedentary people, etc. What causes cancer is still a mystery. There are many genetic and environmental factors involved where neither life style nor heredity (except for rare cases) can be said to be accountable. It is the body which has difficulty in protecting itself against the uncontrolled cell division. Many people, researchers, doctors, and specialists are working very hard to find answers to these questions, as well as remedies to heal and cure.

How do you know when you have cancer?

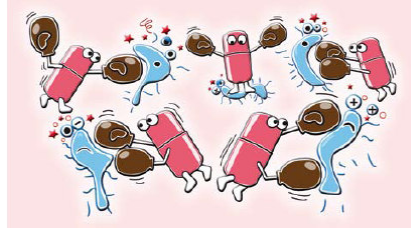
The symptoms vary greatly depending on the type of cancer and the types of treatments administered following a diagnosis. Some cancers may evolve very rapidly while others progress slowly and are more easily controlled.

How is cancer treated?

In order to cure cancer, doctors must use all the weapons that they know of. One of these is called surgery. This means operating to remove the cluster of sick cells (tumour). Surgery is like cutting weeds growing in your garden and throwing them really far away. The doctors say that sometimes radiotherapy (X-rays) must be used to heal a child with cancer. X-rays are like invisible rain which destroys weeds.



Another way of treating the illness is called chemotherapy. This means that we get rid of the sick cells by using medication, either in pill form or by injection with the help of a syringe.



Can the cancer reappear?

Yes, we call this a recurrence. We then begin treatments again (chemotherapy, radiotherapy) but more extensively. The doctors sometimes suggest a bone marrow transplant, which forces the cancer-stricken child to remain in his/her hospital room for weeks.

What is most difficult about the hospital?

The most difficult are the needles and the treatments. The cancer-stricken child does not sleep at home and his/her parents are not always there. Sometimes the cancer-stricken child misses his/her friends, his/her brothers and sisters, his/her cat or his/her dog.

When you've had cancer, are you like you were before?

Yes and no. There are many kids who continue doing the same activities without any sequelae—running, jumping, playing. Unfortunately, sometimes there are bothersome physical and psychological sequelae. Thankfully, the doctors can often suggest solutions for relieving such discomforts.

Does it hurt when you loose your hair? Will it grow back?

No, it doesn't hurt. Yes, hair usually grows back.

Can you die from cancer?

Cancer is a serious illness. If it isn't treated or if the treatments don't work, children may die, but in most cases, they survive.