

What to expect when your child comes off treatment

For parents of children treated for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

When treatment is finished	<p>Your primary oncologist will continue to see you for the first 3 months after finishing treatment.</p> <p>During this time, your primary team will discuss your child's follow up plan with you, including when your child needs to have tests or scans.</p>
Off Therapy Clinic visits	<p>Your clinic nurse will give you a schedule of your 'off therapy' clinic visits, blood tests and scans.</p> <p>After the first 3 months, your child will be transferred to the Off Therapy Clinic. In this clinic, Nurse Practitioners provide follow-up care with Dr. Portwine as the Medical Director. The clinic runs on Thursday afternoons.</p> <p>Off Therapy Clinic visits should occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first year - every month for 6 months, then every 2 months for 6 months • In the second year - every 3 months <p>After this, your child will be transferred to the AfterCare Program.</p> <p>Please make appointments with the business clerk for Team 4 at 905-521-2100, ext. 73887.</p>
Blood tests	<p>Your child will need a finger poke at each visit. Please arrive at the finger poke lab 30 minutes before your appointment.</p>
Scans	<p>Your clinic nurse will arrange all necessary follow-up tests including echocardiograms and bone density scans.</p>
Port flushes	<p>Your child's port should be flushed at the clinic every 4 to 6 weeks. This can be done at your clinic visit.</p>
Port removal	<p>The request to remove the port is usually sent to the Surgical Team when you come off therapy.</p> <p>The surgical team will schedule appointments for your child's pre-op visit and port removal.</p>

Preventing infection	<p>To protect your child from infection, he or she will continue to take antibiotics (usually Septra[®] or Dapsone[®]) for 6 months (until _____).</p> <p>Please discuss any dental procedures with the doctor.</p> <p>Your child needs to be protected from chicken pox for 6 months after therapy (until _____). Please call the clinic if your child is exposed to someone with chickenpox during this time.</p>
Family doctor care	<p>When your child's blood counts return to normal, your family doctor can resume routine care for your child.</p>
Immunizations (vaccines)	<p>When your child comes off treatment, he or she should not have any immunizations for 6 months (until _____).</p> <p>At that time, your child will have blood tests to check the levels (titers) of common vaccines. The results will show what immunizations your child needs. Then, we will give you and your family doctor the recommendations for required immunizations for your child.</p>
Nutrition	<p>Healthy eating is key to your child's well-being. If you have any concerns, we can arrange for you to meet with our oncology dietitian.</p>
Physical activity	<p>Being active is important for your child's health and well-being.</p> <p>If your child is having difficulty with physical activity, we can refer you to the Exercise and Medicine Teams.</p>
Learning assessment	<p>If your child is having difficulty learning at school, he or she may benefit from a learning assessment done by a psychologist.</p> <p>You will be asked about your child's performance at school and a referral for formal testing can be sent if needed.</p>
Eye care	<p>Steroids may increase your child's risk of developing cataracts. Your child will need a check-up with an eye doctor at least once a year.</p> <p>Your clinic nurse may refer you to an eye doctor at the hospital, or you may choose to see one in your community.</p>
