

Could it be cancer? 3 persistent symptoms, 3 visits, or 3 weeks of unexplained symptoms. Pick up the phone.

Leukaemia

- Extremely pale
- Spontaneous bleeding/bruising/pin-point rash (does not go away with glass test)
- Unexplained fever
- Bone/joint pain
- Persistent worsening fatigue

Bone tumours

- Bone swelling or lump
- Bone or joint pain
- Restricted arm or leg movement or limp
- Persistent back pain
- Numbness or weakness in legs or arms
- Incontinence of urine or stool
- Erectile dysfunction in teenagers and young people

Neuroblastoma

- Abdominal distension/lump with or without pain
- Weight loss
- Weakness in legs
- Back pain
- Numbness in arms or legs
- Unexplained bruising around the eye
- Enlarging head/neck swelling
- Unexplained shortness of breath

If a child or teenager has had 3 persistent symptoms, or has visited their doctor 3 times, or has had 3 weeks of unexplained symptoms, it might be time to pick up the phone and make a referral to the local on-call paediatrician.

Cancer grows faster in children and teenagers than in adults, so the CWT pathway doesn't work. **All symptoms should be considered carefully if they persist for 2 weeks or have no clear explanation, as they might indicate other more serious illnesses.**

Cancer symptoms often appear together as clusters rather than on their own. In addition, children may also have unexplained fever, tiredness or weight loss.

Find out more at childcancersmart.org.uk

Brain tumours

- Persistent headache
- Persistent recurrent/vomiting
- Blurred/double/loss of vision
- Abnormal eye movements
- Balance/co-ordination / walking difficulties
- Fit or Seizures (not with a fever)
- Abnormal head position (wry neck, head tilt)
- Behaviour change (especially lethargy)
- Early or delayed puberty

Renal tumours

- Abdominal distension/lump with or without pain*
- Rose coloured or red urine (blood)

Liver tumours

- Abdominal distension/lump with or without pain*
- Yellow skin and eyes

Lymphoma

- Weight loss
- Large and growing neck, armpit or groin lump
- Abdominal mass/distention
- Drenching night sweats
- Unexplained fever
- Bone pain
- Shortness of breath

Soft tissue sarcoma

Depends on where on the body it is - can occur anywhere: commonly

- Unexplained lump with or without pain
- Unexplained swelling (eye, limbs, abdomen)
- Skin changes over the lump / swelling

Retinoblastoma

- White pupil (especially in photographs)
- Squint/ abnormal eye movements
- Reduced or loss of vision
- Protruding/enlarged eye

Germ cell tumour

- Lump/swelling in testicle, breast, groin
- Abdominal distension (with or without pain)
- Early signs of puberty (before the age of 8 in girls, and 9 in boys) such as enlarging breasts, excess hair growth, starting periods