KIDS V CANCER

Changing the landscape of pediatric cancer research.

www.kidsvcancer.org

Autopsy Tissue Donation

The Demand for Autopsy Tissue by Researchers

One of the major barriers to pediatric brain cancer research is the lack of autopsy tissue available for study. Autopsy tissue is needed for biology studies, as well as for establishing tissue cultures and xenograft models. Recent studies have indicated that autopsy tissue yields DNA and RNA suitable for study. For tumors that can be neither resected nor biopsied, it is the only tissue available. Even for those tumors that were banked previously, autopsy tissue provides access to larger quantities of both tumor and normal tissue than are available via resection. Moreover, autopsy tissue may be paired with originally resected tissue to enable comparison studies of the biology of tissue pre- and post-treatment, and of primary versus metastatic tumor.

The Benefit to Families of Donating Tissue

Tissue donations are valuable to researchers, but they are also beneficial to families. Many families have found that consenting to autopsy tissue donation, and thereby contributing to research, is one of the few positive steps they can take during the difficult time of their child's end of life. By offering autopsy tissue donation to families, you will be providing them with an opportunity that may bring them comfort for years to come.

Kids v Cancer's Autopsy Tissue Donation Program

Kids v Cancer promotes pediatric cancer research. Our website provides information on autopsy tissue donation to both physicians and families.

- For physicians

  Logistics An autopsy donation checklist

  Research Contact information for researchers requesting tissue

  How to Ask Interviews with clinicians on how and when they ask for donations

  Handouts For families considering making a donation

- For families

  Frequently Asked Questions The how-tos of tissue donation

  Donation Stories Families share their experiences

  Research Information on researchers in need of autopsy tissue

We hope you will consider offering autopsy tissue donation to your families of children with terminal brain cancer. For more information, visit www.kidsvcancer.org.

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