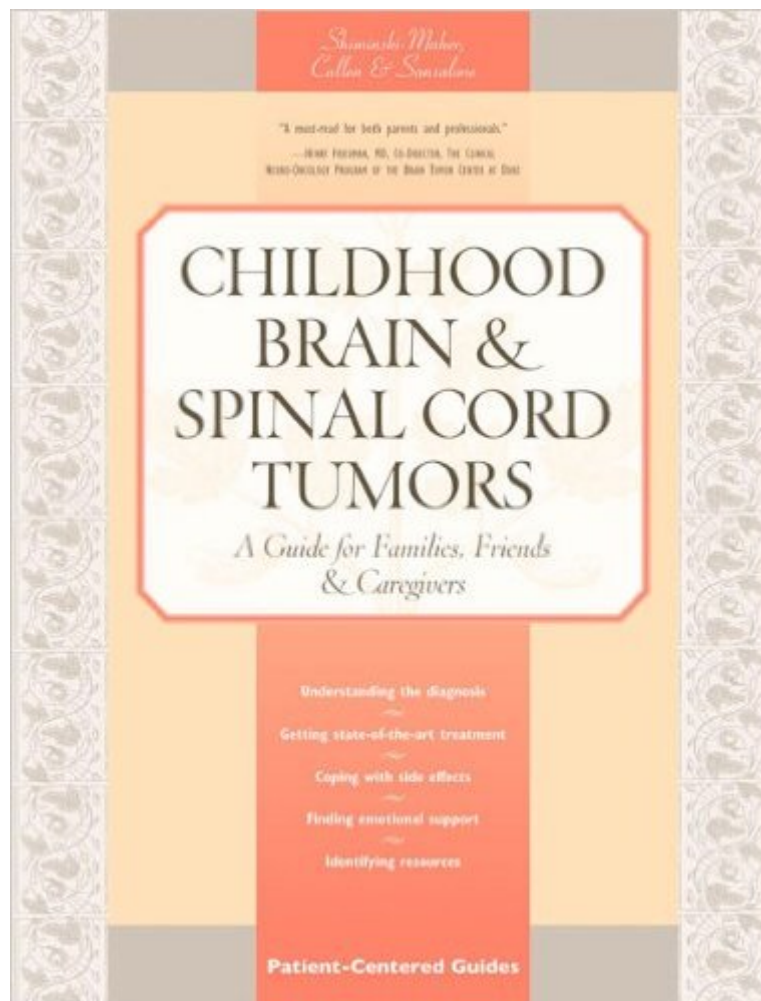


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# Childhood Brain & Spinal Cord Tumors: A Guide For Families, Friends & Caregivers (Patient-Centered Guides)



## Synopsis

Childhood Brain & Spinal Cord Tumors includes detailed and medically reviewed information about both benign and malignant brain and spinal cord tumors that strike children and adolescents. In addition, it offers day-to-day practical advice on how to cope with procedures, hospitalization, family and friends, school, social and financial issues, and communication. Woven among the medical details and the practical advice are the voices of parents and children who have lived with cancer and its treatments. As many parents have already found, advice from "veteran" parents can be a lifeline. Woven among the medical details and the practical advice are the voices of parents and children who have lived with cancer and its treatments. As many parents know, advice from "veteran" parents can be a lifeline. Obtaining a basic understanding of topics such as medical terminology, how drugs work, common side effects of chemotherapy, and how to work more effectively with medical personnel improves the quality of life for the whole family. Having parents describe their own emotional ups and downs, how they coped, and how they molded their family life around hospitalizations can be a tremendous comfort. Just knowing that there are other kids on chemotherapy who refuse to eat anything but tacos or who have frequent rages can make one feel less alone. Parents who read this book will find understandable medical information, obtain advice that eases their daily life, and feel empowered to be strong advocates for their child. It also contains a personal treatment summary and long-term follow-up guide for your child to keep as a permanent record.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When my 6 year old niece was diagnosed with brain cancer last year, my family was devastated. Her parents are both RNs, and so could more easily understand a lot of the terminology and treatments. I have absolutely no medical background, and I found this book to be very helpful. This book provided comprehensive explanations of various treatments, commonly used drugs, different types of brain and spinal cord tumors, etc. that were easy for a layperson to understand. I also really liked that there were many shared experiences from other families who had dealt with childhood cancer, it made me feel like we weren't alone. There are new treatments that come out all the time, so obviously some of the information may be dated, but overall I thought this was an excellent guide for anyone caring for a child with brain cancer.

When our 5 year old daughter was diagnosed with a Brainstem Glioma, the hospital and Child Cancer Foundation (in New Zealand) gave us books to read, if you wanted to wade through all the technical stuff, personally I couldn't cope with it all. Then when I was looking at sites on the internet, I read about this book. I had a look at it at , and thought about it for a few days, trying to weigh up if it would be relevant to NZ'ers. I finally took the plunge and got it. I am soooo relieved that I did. Suddenly I was able to read something and actually get some benefit from it. The inserts from the parents are wonderful - suddenly I don't feel so alone, and the advice is universal. It relates to anyone in any country going through this nightmare.

As a parent to a child who had a brain tumor, I feel that this book covers all the major topics. When our son was diagnosed back in '98, I searched for such a book but none existed. Our son has since passed away but we are thankful that this book is available - particularly for newly diagnosed families. We purchased copies for our public library and for The Jimmy Fund in memory of our three year-old son, Kevin Kirsch. Thank you for writing this much needed guide. It will be a resource for caregivers and medical professionals alike.

My daughter was only 3-months old when she was diagnosed with a rare brainstem and spinal cord tumor. The morning after receiving the devastating news, I went to the hospital's library to check for resources, though I expected none. On the contrary, they showed me about half a dozen books which were relevant to her condition, this one being by far the most helpful. I went on to buy my own

copy and have referenced it numerous times over the past two years since diagnosis. It is extremely thorough, written for those without a medical/scientific background, and continues to be a proven help for every step in this journey. It is also my "go to" resource for new families whom I meet who are just beginning down this road. The Chapters are as follows: 1. Diagnosis 2. The Brain and Spinal Cord 3. Types of Tumors 4. Coping with Procedures 5. Your Child's Hospitalization 6. Family and Friends 7. Forming a Partnership with the Medical Team 8. Surgery 9. Clinical Trials 10. Venous Catheters 11. Radiation Therapy 12. Chemotherapy 13. Common Side Effects of Chemotherapy 14. Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation 15. Feelings, Communication, and Behavior 16. Siblings 17. Nutrition 18. Record Keeping and Finances 19. Sources of Support 20. School 21. End of Treatment 22. Relapse 23. Death and Bereavement 24. Toward the Future I highly recommend this book to anyone caring for a child with a brain tumor diagnosis.

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