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## Your Child has a Wilms' Tumor

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Poster Presentation 30

**YOUR CHILD HAS A WILMS' TUMOR**

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In the past decade, many advances have been made in the study of Wilms' tumors, with new genetic information changing the way these malignancies are viewed. While such tumors comprise only five to six percent of all pediatric cancers, Wilms' tumors are the fifth most common childhood malignancy. As a component of an internship at the St. Jude Midwest Affiliate in Peoria, IL, during fall, 1996, the learning needs of children diagnosed with Wilms' tumors and their parents were explored. A major concern for this population was the lack of parent teaching aids; the most recent informational pamphlet was dated 1985.

To create a parent educational tool, the following methods were initially used: a) comprehensive review of the literature on genetics, treatment, effective nursing care; b) assessment of necessary readability level; c) analysis of readability of pamphlet content using the Flesch Formula. The designed teaching pamphlet included basic human anatomy, the etiology and signs and symptoms, and treatment procedures for Wilms' tumors, as well as coping strategies for children and their parents. The utility of the initial pamphlet will be reviewed by parents of children with Wilms' tumor at St. Jude Midwest Affiliate for final refinement.

This pamphlet will supplement available information with current research for final distribution to Wilms' tumor patients and families at the St. Jude Clinic. The procedure for development and the parent education pamphlet has been submitted to the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses for presentation at the national convention in New York City in September.