

Glossary

Amniotic Fluid: the fluid surrounding a foetus.

Amniocentesis: a process in which a hollow needle is inserted into the uterus (womb) of a pregnant woman to remove and test a small sample of cells from the amniotic fluid in order to screen for certain conditions in the developing foetus. It is usually carried out between the 15th and 20th weeks of pregnancy.

Bilateral / unilateral: affecting both eyes (bilateral) or one eye (unilateral).

Facial asymmetry: where the appearance of the face may not be balanced on both sides.

Chorionic villus sampling (CVS): CVS is a test in which a small sample of cells is removed from the placenta (the organ that provides oxygen and nutrients to a growing foetus), using either a needle inserted through the tummy; or a tube inserted through the cervix (neck of the womb). It is usually carried out between the 11th and 14th weeks of pregnancy.

CT scan: a computerised tomography scan (CT or CAT scan) which produces detailed images of the body.

Embryo: usually refers to week 2-8 after fertilisation, after which time it is usually referred to as a **foetus**.

Geneticist: a specialist in the study of genes and the passing of genetic information from parents to their children.

Genetic testing / counselling: helps to understand what type of Rb you have, and any associated risks (e.g. whether it can be passed onto any future children). Speak to the CHECT support team about arranging genetic testing / genetic counselling.

Heritable / genetic: may be passed from parent to child.

IVF: in vitro fertilisation (IVF) is a fertility treatment in which an egg is removed from a woman's ovaries and fertilised with sperm in a laboratory. The fertilised egg, called an embryo, is then returned to the woman's womb to grow and develop.

Key worker: main contact within a team.

Late effects: health problems that occur months or years after a disease such as Rb is diagnosed, or after treatment has ended.

Melanoma: a form of skin cancer.

MRI scan: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.

Oncologist / Oncology consultant: cancer specialist doctor.

Orbit: the bony cavity in the skull that houses the eyeball, the muscles that move the eye, the lacrimal gland (where tears are made), and the related blood vessels and nerves.

Osteosarcoma: a type of bone cancer.

Paediatric services: healthcare services for children.

Persistent pain: any pain that goes on for longer than would be expected after an injury or illness.

Sarcomas: a sarcoma is a type of cancer that starts in tissues like bone or muscle. Bone and soft tissue sarcomas are the main types of sarcoma.

Screening: children and siblings of people affected by Rb may be screened if they are at risk of developing the condition themselves. Screening (eye checks) enables any developing tumours to be caught early so treatment can start immediately.

Second cancer / secondary cancer: a second cancer is a new cancer that happens in someone who has had cancer before. Second cancers are often mistakenly referred to as “secondary cancers”. Secondary cancers are when the original cancer spreads to a different part of the body.

UV light: ultraviolet (UV) radiation comes from the sun and man-made sources like tanning beds.

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