

## ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD AFTER TREATMENT: FREQUENT AND TEMPORARY CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR

After treatment, you may notice changes in your child's behaviour. Some may experience regression by acting younger than their age; others will need you to be there for them and will not separate from you as easily as before. These reactions are common and usually disappear over time.

Your child will experience frustrations during his/her treatment and it is important to continue to offer activities appropriate to his/her age and not change your family habits.

Our entire team of caregivers and our psychologist will be there to answer your questions and to accompany you and your child throughout this treatment plan.



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**PAEDIATRIC PROTON THERAPY**

 **Antoine Lacassagne**  
CENTRE DE LUTTE CONTRE LE CANCER  
 

Dear Sir/Madam,

You and your child will soon be welcomed in a highly specialised care structure in the field of radiotherapy.

We are a team of expert caregivers, ready to welcome you in our structure and accompany you throughout your child's treatment.

Travelling to the institution and the treatment plan certainly raise legitimate questions and we are here to answer them.



## INFORM YOU TO PREPARE PROPERLY

We will take the time to explain you everything about the treatment: the type of machines, the time of the sessions, the noises you will hear, the position of your child and any symptoms related to the treatment.

You can ask any questions you may have.

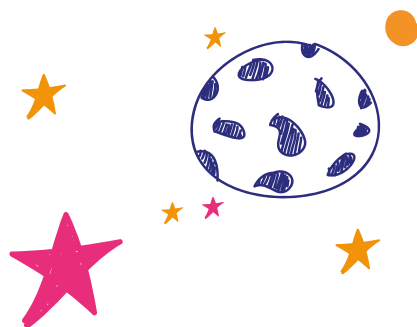
Presenting you the whole treatment plan, as precisely as possible, will allow you to prepare in the best possible way.

## INFORM YOUR CHILD: EVERYONE'S CONCERN



We will adapt the information to the age of your child using different adapted tools, such as games, drawings, etc.

You will also have an important role in the transmission of information: you know your child best and will find the right words. If necessary, a psychologist will be there to help you.



## LISTEN TO THE FEARS OF YOUR CHILD AND WHAT HE/SHE HAS TO SAY

Giving your child the opportunity to express his/her fears when he/she is old enough to do so is an essential principle.

### • «Dad, Mum, where are you?»

Fear of separation is common in infants. You will be able to stay in the treatment room for a short time before the treatment starts. We can ask your child if he/she would like to hold on to a familiar object (comforter or teddy) that will comfort him/her during the sessions.

### • « What if I hurt? »

The treatment is totally painless. Your child will feel nothing, exactly as during a radiological examination (CT scan, MRI or X-ray). But let your child express his/her fears and understand what previous pain he/she is referring to. We will be able to define it and provide the means to remedy it effectively, if necessary.

### • « What's going to change in my life afterwards?»

Symptoms related to irradiation are not systematic; they depend on the location and type of lesion. They will be explained to you by the radiotherapist. In any case, speaking precisely of these symptoms and their temporary nature deflects your child's fears and builds a bond of trust.

## RESPECT HIS/HER ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND

Most often, it is better to gradually present things to allow the child time to understand and imagine what will happen. We will help you be attentive to the signals indicating that he/she has received enough information and let you come back to it later.



## ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD DURING TREATMENT: WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO SAY?

A schedule of treatment sessions will be given to you, which you can mark on a calendar. This presents the programme in an accessible way, limited in time, with a beginning and an end.

After each session, by blocking the day or colouring it, a step is taken.