HISTIOCYTOSIS UK

No-one should die of Histiocytosis

The Facts

What Is Histiocytosis?

Histiocytosis is an umbrella term applied to a group of rare diseases, characterised by increased numbers of white blood cells called histiocytes in the blood and tissues.

There Are Two Main Types

i. **Haemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis - HLH**
In HLH, a virus infection triggers another type of histiocyte, the Macrophage, to become overactive and attack the body. Red blood cells and other white blood cells are engulfed and destroyed by the macrophages, so that the patient is unable to fight infections.

ii. **Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis - LCH**
Histiocytes called Langerhans cells, which are normally found in the skin, may spread to many organs and damage them, so that symptoms vary depending on which organs are affected, but skin rashes, destruction of bone, breathing problems and damage to the brain are common. LCH occurs in children, often during infancy but also in adults.

The Impact

Regardless of the form of histiocytosis, children and adult patients suffer from the physical pain associated with the disease and the emotional trauma of long hospital admissions or travel away from home, as well as the fear of not knowing what will happen to them. Because these diseases are so rare, diagnosis is often delayed and misdiagnosis common, so that treatment may not be started promptly.

The stress, devastating parents and family members.

Together we are Histio UK.org

For further information about Histio UK; our research, awareness or volunteering:
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