

# Teratoma

## FACTS:

- A teratoma is a congenital (present at birth) tumor formed in all three layers of tissue. It can contain bone, teeth or hair fragments.
- A sacral teratoma, located on the tail bone, is the most common form of teratoma and is usually visible from outside the body.
- Although less common, teratomas can occur in the sex organs (testes and ovaries).
- Although most teratomas are benign, some are malignant. ALL have the potential to become malignant.
- Symptoms of teratomas include a tumor, swelling or mass that can be felt or seen; constipation or incontinence; and leg weakness if a sacral tumor
- Teratomas can be diagnosed through biopsy, blood test, CAT scan or MRI, x-ray and/or ultrasound



**Teratomas are present at birth.**



**They should always be checked by a doctor.**



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## TREATMENT:

- **Surgery to remove the tumor is the most common treatment.**
- **Chemotherapy to interfere with the cell's ability to grow or reproduce is used with both benign and malignant teratomas.**
- **Radiation therapy is used to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors.**
- **Supportive care is also given to prevent and treat any side effects of treatment or complications and to keep the child comfortable during treatment.**
- **Once the teratoma has been treated or removed, the child should be given regular health checks.**



**Surgery is the most common treatment option.**



**Many families have adopted children with teratomas.**