



Susie has a Tumour



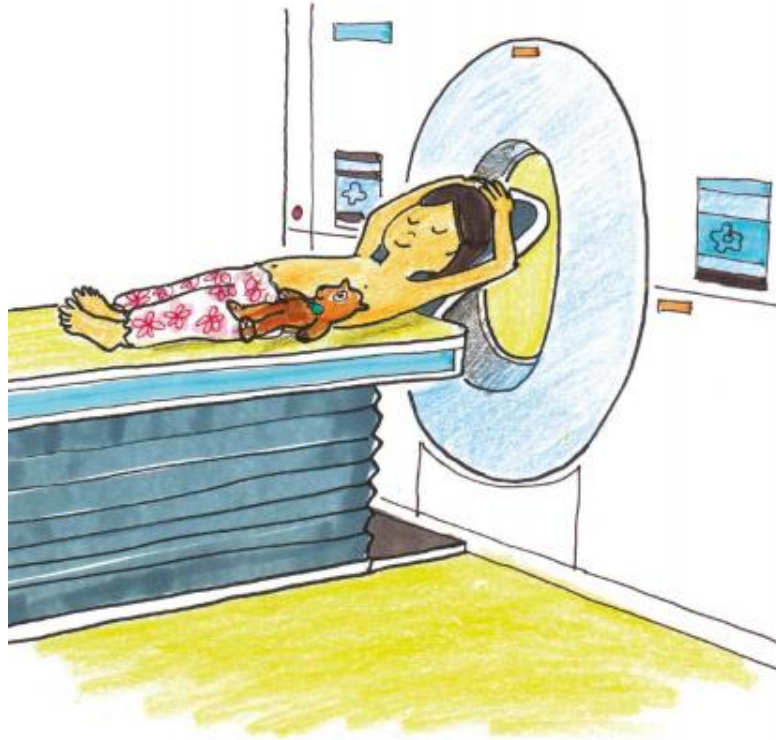
This is my friend Susie and her family.

Susie is five years old and lives with her Mummy, Daddy, Harry and her dog Spot. She has lots of things she enjoys doing. Susie loves school, dancing and playing with her friends.

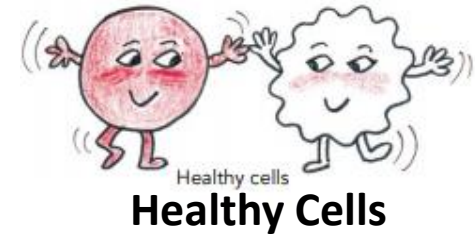


One day just after Christmas, Susie was getting dressed and her mummy saw that she had a little lump on her arm. They thought it might be an insect bite. Mum took Susie to see the doctor. The doctor said that Susie needed to see a different doctor at the hospital.

Susie had to stay in hospital and have some tests, so that the doctors could find out what was causing the lump in her arm to grow.



Susie had to have a scan. She had to lie very still while the scanner took pictures of inside her body. It didn't hurt, but Susie was good at keeping still. Her teddy had a scan too!



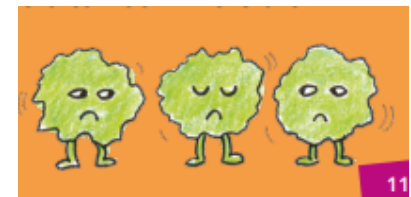
After a few days, the doctor saw Susie and her parents at the hospital. He explained that the pictures showed that Susie did have a lump inside her arm. The doctor said the lump was called a tumour and it was a type of cancer.



“What is cancer?” Susie asked.

The doctor explained that everyone's body is made up of millions of cells. So tiny that you cannot see them without a microscope. The cells make different things our bodies need – like blood, muscle and bone.

Sometimes the cells split up too quickly and don't do their job properly. Lots of damaged cells are made and stop the good cells from working properly. This is called Cancer. When the damaged cells do not know what they should do, they stick together to make a lump. This is called a tumour.



Damaged Cells



Naughty cells that stick together to cause the lump in Susie's arm.

Susie had some of the lump taken out of her arm, so that the doctor could decide what treatment to give her to help make her better.

When Susie went to hospital she met lots of children and made some new friends. There was lots of toys and games to play with.





The doctor saw Susie and her family and explained that Susie would need some medicine called chemotherapy. She would also need an operation and another treatment called radiotherapy. The doctor explained that Susie was poorly and it would take a little while for her to get better.



The doctor explained that the chemo medicine would go into Susie's body through the portacath. She could call it a wiggly. When Susie goes back to school her friends must be careful not to knock her portacath and must not try to pick her up.

Susie started her chemo and the medicine went through the special 'wiggly line'. It didn't hurt, but it made her feel a bit funny.





The chemo also made Susie's hair start to fall out. The doctor told Susie that once her treatment had finished her hair would start to grow back again. Susie thought she would wear a cap, scarf or wig if she got cold. At the hospital Susie saw lots of boys and girls that wore wigs, hats, scarves and some already had their own hair again.



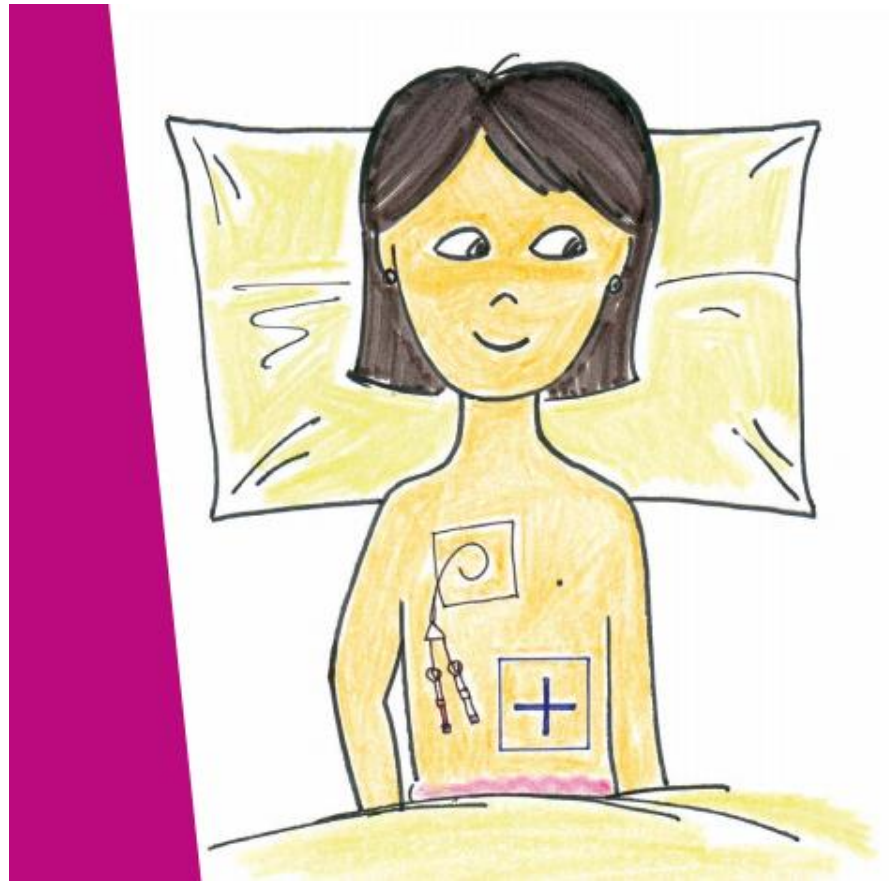
The chemo was a good medicine because it made the lump in her arm get smaller, but it also made her feel very sick. She sometimes got a temperature and her mouth became sore. Susie had a tube put up her nose so that she could have a special liquid food to help her stay strong and get better quickly.



The chemo worked and the lump got smaller. Susie had an operation to take it out. Susie had lots of visitors who went to see her in hospital.



After Susie's operation, she was well enough to go home and soon started to go to school more and more.

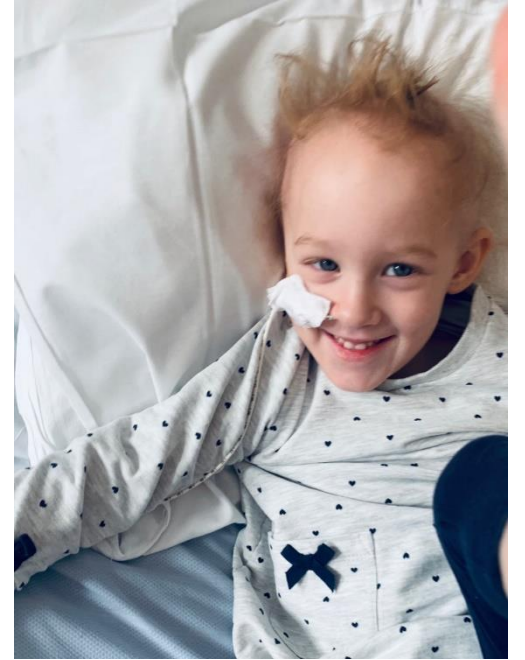


Susie had to have radiotherapy. The sun has rays that make us warm and Susie went through a tunnel that had good rays to help her arm stay well. Susie finished her treatment. Susie went to the hospital for check ups to make sure she was growing properly and keeping well.



Susie was so brave when she had her treatment and her family bought her a special gift. It was a kitten and she called it 'Wiggly'.





Olivia is like Susie and has a lump in her arm. She is having to have treatment that will help to make her better. At times, Olivia will not be at school, but she still wants to see you all as much as possible. We can use 'Facetime' on Mrs Nellist's mobile phone, so that we can keep in touch with Olivia and her family when she's not in school.

Let's help Olivia get better by sending her lots of love and letting her see our big smiley faces.

