



SCCSS NEWSLETTER 2026

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SCCSS stands for the Swiss Childhood Cancer Survivor Study - a national questionnaire study for people who had cancer in childhood or adolescence, as well as their siblings. In this newsletter, we present the latest results, ongoing analyses, and new SCCSS projects.



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Do you have any questions or concerns, or need additional support?

If you have any questions about the study or the questionnaire, please feel free to contact our study team directly at any time:
sccss.ispm@unibe.ch / [031 684 36 67](tel:0316843667)

In addition, the umbrella organisation **Kinderkrebs Schweiz** provides support for children and adolescents with cancer, survivors, and their families. It offers:

- Counselling and guidance on follow-up care
- Opportunities for peer support and regular meetings for survivors
- Information about life during and after cancer
- Assistance with social insurance and legal questions

For medical questions, please continue to contact your treatment centre or your specialist.

Last Year's Results

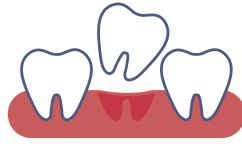


This analysis was initiated following a **request from study participants**.

During cancer treatment, many people experience gum problems.

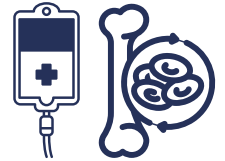
How does cancer therapy affect teeth in the long term?

Dental health



In this study, we asked 731 children and adolescents who had cancer during childhood, along with 144 siblings, questions about their dental health.

People who had cancer in early childhood more often had missing or smaller teeth and less tooth enamel than their siblings. The effects were more common after chemotherapy or a stem cell transplant, especially when these treatments took place in early childhood.



Regular dental check-ups and good oral hygiene help minimize the negative effects of treatment.



[Read more here](#) 

Many people who had cancer in childhood and adolescence report breathing problems during physical exertion, for example when running, swimming, or cycling.

What causes this? Did cancer treatment affect the lungs, or could there be other reasons?

Respiratory problems during exertion

In a survey of 196 children and adolescents, one in four reported shortness of breath, coughing, or wheezing during physical exertion.



The symptoms were mainly linked to asthma, overweight, and low physical activity, not to past cancer treatment.




Maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active on a regular basis, and treating common conditions could help prevent or lessen almost half of these problems.

[Read more here](#) 


New Projects 2025

Last year, we launched four new projects on physical activity, health behaviours, growth, and weight.



since February 2025
SCCSS-Activity:
Physical activity

A big thank you to all participants!




since February 2025
SCCSS-Gemeinsam:
Co-creating SCCSS

Moving, sitting, sleeping—what does everyday life look like after cancer?


With a small sensor, we want to explore this in more detail in a new study.


Since February 2025, more than 100 people have participated in the study. For a week they wore a sensor that recorded movement, sitting time, and sleep.



Many reported that the sensor was easy to wear and that they quickly forgot they were wearing it. A first look at the data confirms this: almost all participants wore the sensor continuously for the entire week.


Data analysis is underway, and we will be able to share the first results soon.




Learn more about the project 


Get involved and help shape the SCCSS!

We want to bring our research closer to childhood cancer survivors and their families. Participants can take an active role in shaping the study, helping ensure our research focuses on what matters most to them.

For this reason, we discussed our questionnaire with 12 SCCSS participants to make sure future surveys better reflect participants' needs. Mental health, returning to everyday life, and impacts on the family are the topics that concern those affected the most. You can find a summary of the results here: 

In addition, we were pleased to welcome 21 people to the Advisory Board this summer. Among other things, they test new questionnaires, suggest current topics, and help us make the language in our research publications clearer and easier to understand.

Want to get involved?
Get in touch with us here 



since July 2025
SCCSS-Behavior:
Health behavior



For a healthy life after cancer

A healthy lifestyle including being physically active, eating a balanced diet, and avoiding tobacco and alcohol can help reduce the risk of chronic health conditions after cancer.

But how has the lifestyle of childhood cancer survivors changed over the past 20 years? Over the next three years, we will examine this using data from over 4,000 participants. Together with those affected, we will work on developing strategies to support a healthy lifestyle.



Learn more about the project



since October 2025
SCCSS-Growth

Physical growth during and after treatment

To understand how growth and weight change over time in children with cancer, we will analyse data from hospitals and questionnaires.



We aim to understand how children's height and weight change from childhood through adulthood during and after cancer treatment. In addition to Switzerland, Slovenia and Portugal are also taking part in the study.

With this knowledge, doctors can develop measures to help prevent poor growth, underweight, or overweight.

Learn more about the project



New data collection

Between November 2024 and October 2025, we received completed questionnaires from nearly 400 childhood cancer survivors. We can now begin analysing the latest data.



In 2026, we will send out a questionnaire to some childhood cancer survivors who have already completed one. These follow-up surveys will help us understand how the health and quality of life of childhood cancer survivors develop over time.

Keep up with the latest from our clinical projects

An easy way to test your hearing: Hearing aid shops

Watch this video
to find out more



In this study, we explored a new idea to test hearing: at hearing aid shops instead of clinics.

Interviews with 29 childhood cancer survivors showed that many found this screening method very practical because it was easy to include in their daily routine. Others preferred a hearing test with a doctor who knows their medical history.



The doctors we spoke to thought that hearing tests in hearing aid shops were a good option for people who no longer go to follow-up appointments.

Updates from the Pulmo study

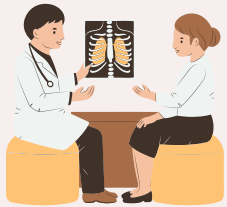
Watch this video
to find out more



SCCSS FollowUp
Pulmo

The Pulmo study examines lung health in childhood cancer survivors from the clinics in Bern, Basel, and Geneva.

So far, more than 250 young childhood cancer survivors have participated and checked their lung function using simple breathing tests.

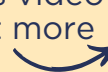


The first results suggest that most participants have normal lung function. Changes were more common after certain treatments, such as radiation therapy or chest surgery, but often did not cause noticeable symptoms.

The study is ongoing, and we have more analyses planned. We will keep participants up to date as new findings become available.

The CardioOnco study is growing

Watch this video
to find out more



Herzachsorge für
Cardiac Care for
Suivi cardiaque pour

Survivors



Thanks to the active participation of many childhood cancer survivors, the CardioOnco study keeps growing.

Across the five current centres (Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lucerne, and St. Gallen), more than 600 survivors have already taken part in the study. In total, around 1,000 cardiology examinations have been carried out. This data provide a valuable foundation for identifying and better understanding changes in heart function.



In 2026, two additional centres are expected to join. Preparations are already underway.



Want to get involved and help shape the SCCSS?

We are looking for interested people to exchange ideas. If you are interested, you can [find more information here](#).

Want to stay informed about the latest results?

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or check our [website](#) for the latest updates!

Do you have any questions, comments, or other concerns?

You are welcome to get in touch with our study team:

Email: sccss.ispm@unibe.ch

Phone: 031 684 36 67



Thank you to all participants and funding organisations!



Kinderkrebsregister
Registre du cancer de l'enfant
Registro dei tumori pediatrici
Childhood Cancer Registry

● KINDERKREBS SCHWEIZ
● CANCER DE L'ENFANT EN SUISSE
● CANCRO INFANTILE IN SVIZZERA
● CHILDHOOD CANCER SWITZERLAND



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ligue suisse contre le cancer
lega svizzera contro il cancro



krebsskranke kinder
BASEL

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recherche suisse contre le cancer
ricerca svizzera contro il cancro
swiss cancer research

