



FOUNDATION INFORMATION

100%

The Marc Jr Foundation has NO paid employees.
We are a 100% volunteer based organization.

The Marc Jr Foundation works to help families facing
a DIPG with educational, financial, and emotional
assistance.



LETTER FROM LYNETTE

The Marc Jr Foundation is different from other similar organizations due to its passion and commitment.

Marc Jr Foundation Board and Volunteer Members

We have an outstanding group of talented, energized, caring team members. The Board and the Volunteers in the Marc Jr Foundation work to help families throughout the country facing a Diffused Intrinsic Pontine Glioma ("DIPG").

Marc Jr Foundation Educational Information Binders

We are unwavering in our commitment to not only the families facing a DIPG, but also to doctors and social workers, ensuring they have educational information to share at the time of diagnosis. We understand the devastation this diagnosis brings and we hope to offer families support during this journey. Today, the Marc Jr Foundation's educational binders are an invaluable resource that help doctors and staff work together with the family to create a plan for the care of the child who has been diagnosed with DIPG cancer.

Marc Jr Foundation Grant Program

We work closely with social workers at the Children's Hospitals around the country, identifying families in need of financial services. The Marc Jr Foundation gifts families \$500 to help reduce the financial stress that comes with a diagnosis. We personally understand how many new expenses are thrown at your family immediately after diagnosis. This money is to be used at your discretion, without stipulations or reimbursement forms. This money can be used for copays, travel expenses, alternative treatments, prescriptions, etc. It may also be used for a family night out – the zoo, a museum, movie, amusement park, etc. Your child's health comes first, and our goal is to help.

Marc Jr Foundation iPad Program for DIPG Families

Today, the Marc Jr Foundation works with Hopecam in providing iPads and a medical speech app as a resource to help parents navigate this difficult diagnosis. These Foundations are working with doctors, social workers, and speech pathologists as we realize how important it is to have these resources readily available if and when the DIPG child loses their ability to speak due to this tumor so we want to ensure they can communicate with their parents and/or healthcare providers.

Marc Jr Foundation Literature Resource Program for DIPG Families

The Marc Jr Foundation works with the ACCO to provide FREE resources to DIPG families and children. The resources include books about clinical trials and *Understanding the Journey: A Parent's Guide to DIPG*.

Marc Jr Foundation Monthly Parent Chat

The foundation host a monthly meeting with parents, guest speakers, or doctors to discuss different approaches and DIPG clinical trials. The Parent Chat is usually set every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM MT via Zoom.

You can also join our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1048744038869542>

Marc Jr Foundation Holistic Option

The foundation is also working with Marco Dydo (Neuroscientist and Researcher) and Lisa-Marie (Developmental Psychologist and a Plant-based Foodie and Recipe Developer).

They have a Nutraceutical Laboratory and Kitchen in Southern California and have been working with cancer patients with their Nutraceutical protocol for many years and helping them thrive.

Read More: <https://marcjr.org/holistic-options/>

Visit Their Website: <https://www.arsenceicfoundation.org/>

~Lynette Apodaca, Executive Director

THE MARC JR FOUNDATION

Marc Apodaca Jr., who the Foundation is in memorial of, was diagnosed in 2007 with a diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG). As parents, we realized how little help there was in the form of treatment, information, and support for the families facing glioma cancer. Much of the information we found from online research or medical journals was very difficult to understand.

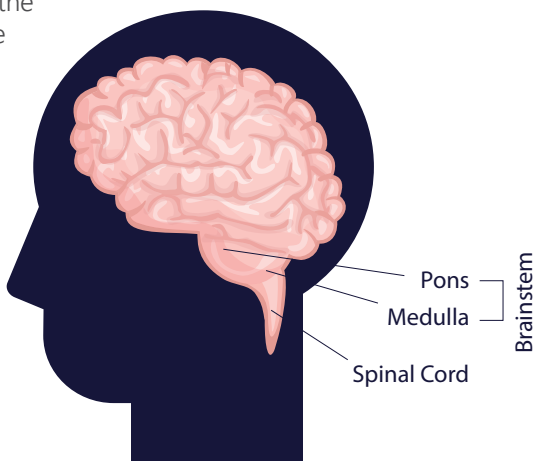
We created the Foundation to help support families in their search for answers and to utilize the support of families fighting this insidious disease.

AN OVERVIEW OF DIFFUSED INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA “DIPG”

Simply put, DIPG is a cancer of the pons—the area directly above the brainstem—and is considered one of the most dreaded forms of childhood cancer due to the historically poor prognosis. DIPG is very rare and affects approximately 600 children per year in the United States. There is no known cause; it affects girls and boys equally; spans all social, racial, and religious groups; and has a peak incidence around 6 to 9 years of age.

Cancerous tumors are classified and named based on their pathology and location. This tumor is diffusely spread throughout the pons and initially forms in the glial cells that support the central nervous system. DIPG is also called diffuse pontine glioma, diffusely infiltrative brainstem glioma, and brainstem glioma. The Marc Jr Foundation and most of the organizations that we collaborate with use the name diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

Having your child diagnosed with DIPG is earth shattering and every parent then reprioritizes life because when it comes to the health of their child, we know that no one knows them better, so we work to help them navigate these horrific waters.



PROGNOSIS

Survival times vary from child to child with the majority of children dying within one year of diagnosis. Fewer than ten percent of children survive for more than two years. To date there are no known survivors of a DIPG.

SYMPTOMS

The initial symptoms of DIPG build gradually for as long as six months prior to diagnosis and include clumsiness, weakness of an arm and/or leg, double vision, tilting of the head, mood changes, and headaches. The gradual buildup of the severity of these symptoms allows them to go unnoticed for months.

TREATMENT

Treatment plans for DIPG are usually designed to relieve the symptoms of the cancer as well as reduce the size and growth rate of the tumor.

PROGRESSION OF TREATMENT

Most children experience a relief from the symptoms of DIPG after radiation treatment. This "honeymoon" period can last for weeks or months as each child's tumor, responsiveness to radiation and treatments, and general health are different. We recommend using this time to enjoy your child and explore any additional treatment options that may be available.

Unfortunately, most children will experience a recurrence of the tumor and a return of their symptoms. For most, the symptoms will return at a faster rate and with greater severity than they originally appeared.

We as a Foundation know the job of the parent is to remain focused on keeping their child feeling safe and loved. That is why we work so hard.





The Marc Jr Foundation Is A First Place To Go When Facing A DIPG

HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Foundation partners with Children's Hospitals throughout the US and they include, but are not limited to:

- *Children's Hospital Colorado
- *Phoenix Children's Hospital
- *St. Louis Children's Hospital
- *Texas Children's Hospital
- *Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters
- *Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago in Chicago
- *Children's National Medical Ctr (DC)
- *St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- *Seattle Children's Hospital
- *Children's Mercy Kansas City
- *Children's Hospital of San Antonio
- *UCLA Medical Center
- *Florida Hospital for Children
- *Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

TRAVEL SUPPORT NETWORK

In less than six months have offered over \$10,000 in support to DIPG families



Building Awareness Today For Tomorrow's Cure

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App Store



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Google Play



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