

HELPING YOUNG  
PEOPLE UNDERSTAND  
ANTIBODY THERAPY

# THE NEXT **BIG** ADVENTURE OF LITTLE **SKIVOLO**



BY  
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United Therapeutics Oncology is honored to serve the pediatric neuroblastoma community and is committed to supporting patients and families touched by neuroblastoma.

# THE NEXT BIG ADVENTURE OF LITTLE SKIVOLO



This book is dedicated to the brave neuroblastoma patients fighting this disease.

Hello, Skivolo! Skivolo is 3. He has a kind of cancer called **NEUROBLASTOMA** (new-row-blast-oma).

Skivolo is a very curious little red panda with lots of questions.



Why can't penguins fly?

Why are trees green?

Can fish dance?

Why can't I eat cake for dinner?

How many days are there until my birthday?

Why don't worms have teeth?

Is the moon really made of cheese?



Today is a big day for Skivolo! He's going back to the hospital to start a new medicine that will help treat his neuroblastoma.

"You are a brave little boy, Skivolo," his mommy, Patrino, said.

"Your daddy and sister and I are so proud of you," she added.

"How brave am I, mommy?" asked Skivolo.

"You are like an explorer who goes on many journeys," Patrino answered.

"Now there's another journey you need to go on, my brave little one."



"Can I go on the journey, too, mommy? I'll go get my mask!" Skivolo's sister, Jenu, asked.

"No, sweet Jenu, I'm the only one who can go to the hospital with Skivolo," Patrino answered.

"But I'll miss him so much!" Jenu cried.



"Don't worry, sweetheart," Patrino laughed, "we can video chat with you from the hospital, so you can see your brother every day, as long as he isn't too tired from his treatment."

*Skivolo recognizes his friend Zara as he walks into the hospital.*

“Mommy, look. It’s Zara! My friend from the last hospital visit. She has neuroblastoma just like me!” Skivolo exclaimed.

“Let’s go say hello,” Patrino told Skivolo.

“Hi, Zara. I’m here for a new medicine to treat my cancer,” Skivolo said.

“I am all done with my treatment now,” said Zara. “All the doctors and nurses took great care of me. I’ll really miss seeing my friends and Nurse Felicia, but maybe she will be your nurse today!” she said.



“I hope so! I remember her. She’s really nice.” Skivolo said.

“Everyone is nice here! They’ll take good care of you,” said Zara.

“Have fun at home,” Skivolo said over his shoulder as he and Patrino walked away.

*Nurse Felicia welcomes Skivolo and gets him ready for treatment.*

Doctor: Kono

Nurse: Felicia

Welcome,  
Skivolo!



“Hi, Skivolo. Remember me?” Nurse Felicia asked.

“Yes! My friend Zara said you would be here!”  
said Skivolo.

“I’ll be taking care of you while we give you  
new medicine to help you fight the cancer.  
It’s called **antibody** (ANT-E-BODY) **therapy**,”  
Nurse Felicia said.

“I’m a little nervous,” said Skivolo.

“Don’t worry, Skivolo,” said Nurse Felicia.  
“When Dr. Kono gets here in a minute, we  
will explain everything you need to know,”  
she reassured him.

**“And I’ll be right here with you,”**

Patrino told Skivolo.

*Dr. Kono and Nurse Felicia explain to Skivolo how antibody therapy works.*

“Hello again, Skivolo. You’re looking strong!

You must be eating all of your bamboo,” said Dr. Kono.

“Do you have any questions before we start?” he asked.

“Why do I need antibody therapy?” asked Skivolo.

“I’ve already had chemotherapy,” he said.

“That’s a great question!” said Dr. Kono.

“We use a lot of different medicines to fight your cancer. Antibody therapy is one of them. It helps us find some cancer **cells** that may still be inside your body.”



“If this medicine is new, how do you know if it’s going to work on me?” Skivolo asked.

“Antibody therapy may be new to you, but doctors like me have been using it for a long time and I know it very well,” said Dr. Kono.

But cancer cells are tricky. They hide from your immune system. Antibody therapy helps your body find the cancer cells so the immune system can try to get rid of them,” Dr. Kono explained.

“It’s like your body has little detectives in it!” said Patrino.

“That’s so cool!” said Skivolo.

“Antibody therapy uses your body’s **immune system** to fight the cancer. Your immune system is made up of tiny parts that work together as a team to keep you healthy.



*Dr Kono and Nurse Felicia talk about the side effects Skivolo may experience during antibody therapy.*

“What does it feel like to get antibody therapy? Does it hurt?” asked Skivolo.

“Yes, it can hurt, but one of the reasons you stay in the hospital is so we can keep you comfortable. While you are here, we can give you pain medicine to help make you feel better,” said Dr. Kono.

“You may also get a fever, an itchy rash, or something called *low blood pressure*. These are called **side effects**, and they can happen when you take antibody therapy,” said Dr. Kono.



*Nurse Felicia talks about how premedications can help with side effects.*



“That doesn’t sound fun. And I don’t like hurting,”  
said Skivolo.

“Our goal is to keep you comfortable the whole time you are here.  
That’s why I’m going to give you medicines before the antibody starts.  
They will help keep away some of the side effects. These medicines  
are called **premedications**, or premeds,” said Nurse Felicia.

“Some of these premeds might also make you sleepy,  
but it’s okay to sleep a lot, Skivolo. We will be checking  
on you day and night—even while you are asleep!  
Please let us know if you are hurting, and we can  
give you more medicine to help you feel better.”

“I’ll be right here with you  
the whole time, little one,”  
added Patrino.

“Why do I have to stay in the hospital the whole time?” asked Skivolo. “Can’t my mommy just give me this medicine at home?”

“That’s a great question, Skivolo! We need to make sure you are feeling okay and comfortable before, during, and after your antibody therapy so your body can fight the cancer,” said Nurse Felicia.

“We will be running tests called **labs** and **vitals** and checking your weight ... oh, and your pee too,” she added.

“Wow, even my pee? It sounds like you will be really busy taking care of me,” said Skivolo.

“I’m glad we don’t have to do this at home, Skivolo. I feel so much better being in the hospital,” added Patrino.

“Yeah, me too, mommy,” said Skivolo, feeling relieved.

“And while you’re here, you can still have fun, whenever you feel up to it,” said Nurse Felicia. “You can color, watch your favorite cartoons, or video chat with your sister and father.”



*Skivolo is ready for his antibody therapy.*

“Okay, honey, it looks like we’re ready to start!”  
said Patrino.

“Okay, but wait, I have one more question,”  
said Skivolo.

“What’s that?” asked Patrino.

“Can I video chat with Jenu when you start  
the antibody therapy? I want her to see  
the medicine that can act like a detective!”  
said Skivolo.

“Of course, Skivolo. That’s a great idea,”  
said Patrino.

Skivolo and Jenu video chat together as the  
medicine starts.

**“You are so brave, Skivolo.  
I’m so proud of you,”** says Jenu.

“I can’t wait to have bamboo  
treats with you when you  
come home!”



## WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN?

### ANTIBODY THERAPY

A medicine that helps your body find and kill cancer cells.

### CELL

The smallest building block of every living thing on our planet, including you.

### IMMUNE SYSTEM

Cells and other small parts of your body that work together to defend against germs and diseases.

### LABS

Blood samples drawn from you that help the doctors understand how your body is doing.

### NEUROBLASTOMA

A kind of cancer that starts in nerve cells and mostly happens to young children.

### PREMEDICATION

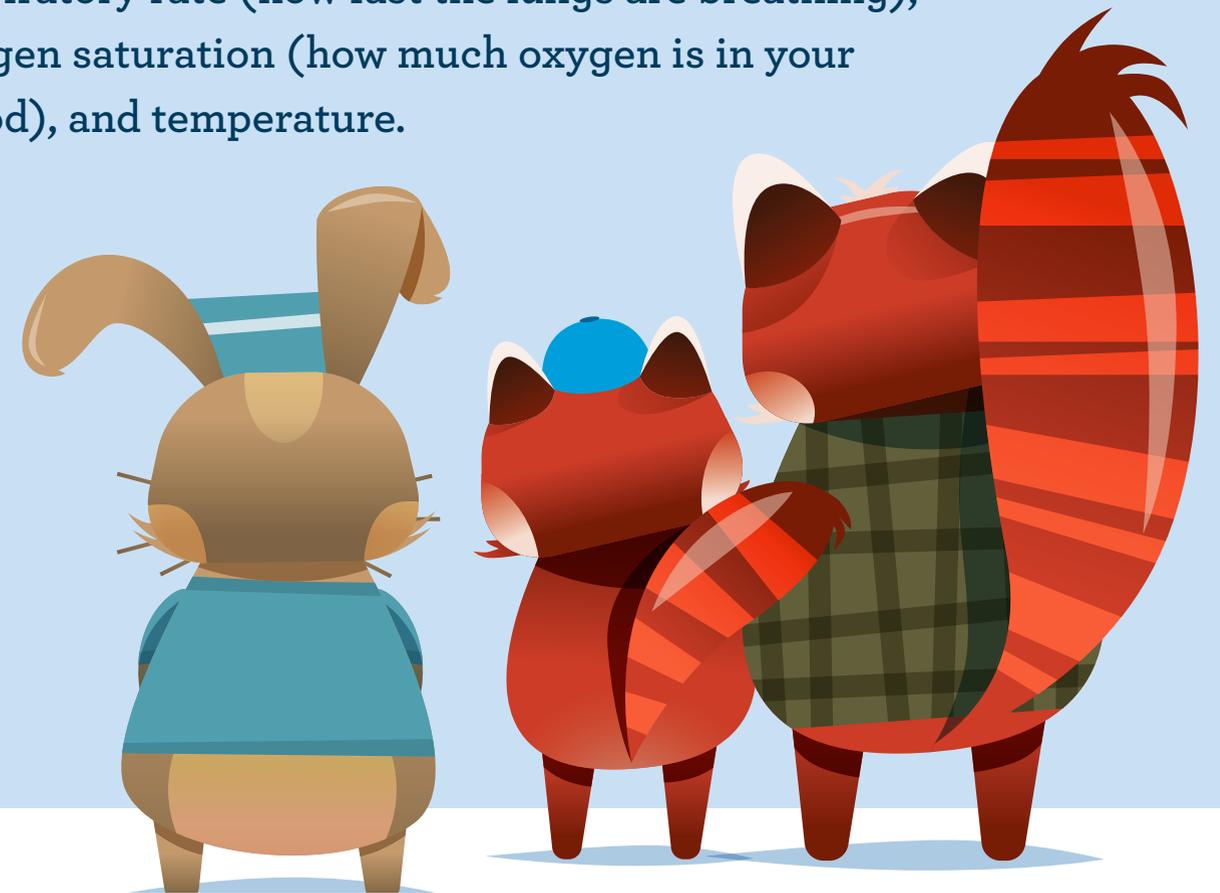
Medication(s) given before another treatment or medication to help with expected side effects.

### SIDE EFFECT

An unwanted effect of medicine. Side effects with cancer therapies are expected. Common side effects from medicines used in cancer treatment may include feeling very tired, feeling itchy, or getting a tummy ache, and other things that don't feel good.

### VITAL SIGNS OR "VITALS"

Vital signs are measurements of the body's most basic functions. They usually include blood pressure (like an arm hug), heart rate (how fast the heart is beating), respiratory rate (how fast the lungs are breathing), oxygen saturation (how much oxygen is in your blood), and temperature.



# NEUROBLASTOMA SUPPORT

*every step of the way*

United Therapeutics Oncology is proud to provide support for pediatric neuroblastoma families on their treatment journey at [neuroblastoma-info.com](http://neuroblastoma-info.com).

[Neuroblastoma-info.com](http://Neuroblastoma-info.com) is a resource that can help guide you and your family from diagnosis through treatment, and provides support for every step in between.

- Learn about neuroblastoma & diagnosis
- Get an overview of treatment types
- Find support groups and resources

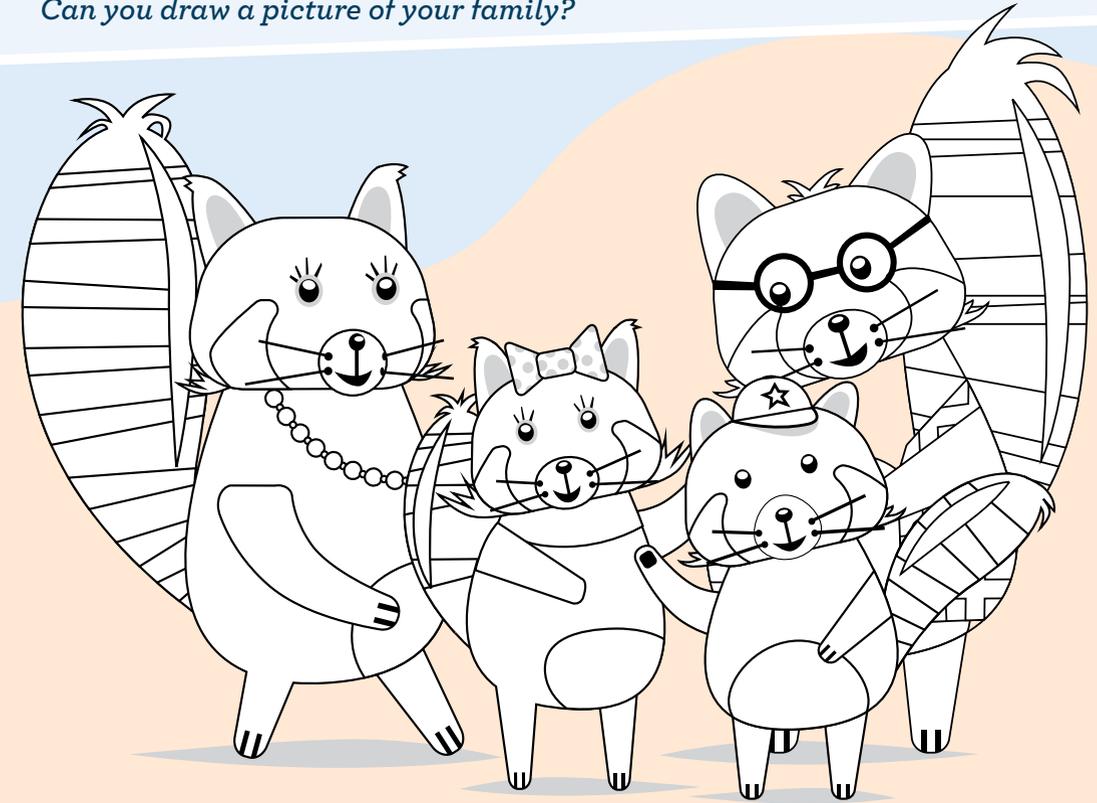
**Skivolo has more to offer online!** Discover additional Skivolo activities and resources to educate and entertain your child.

No matter where you are in your journey, find the information and support you need at [neuroblastoma-info.com](http://neuroblastoma-info.com).



## MEET SKIVOLO'S FAMILY

*This is Skivolo's family—his mommy, Patrino; his daddy, Patro; and his sister, Jenu. Can you draw a picture of your family?*



More fun activities like this are in *Little Skivolo's Big Book of Fun* on [neuroblastoma-info.com](http://neuroblastoma-info.com)



Every child has questions about being sick,  
and Skivolo is no different.

## THE NEXT BIG ADVENTURE OF LITTLE SKIVOLO

follows this very curious little red panda  
as he begins antibody therapy.



For more information about neuroblastoma,  
visit [neuroblastoma-info.com](http://neuroblastoma-info.com).

