

Cancer

Fast Facts:

- Cancer is a disease that causes cells to grow out of control.
- Cancer is treated with drugs known as “chemotherapy” (also called “chemo”).
- Oral chemo is taken by mouth instead of injection or infusion

What Causes Cancer?

- Cancer cells develop when human cells change and grow out of control
- There are many possible causes of cancer, some of which include:
 - Genes
 - Tobacco use
 - Diet
 - Being exposed to the sun/radiation

How is Cancer Diagnosed?

- Cancer may be diagnosed with imaging, and lab tests or tumor samples.
- Sometimes all or part of a tumor needs to be removed through surgery to diagnose cancer.

How is Cancer Treated?

- Chemo can be used to help prevent the spread of cancer.
- Chemo can also slow the growth of cancer, or even cure it.
- There are a few different types of chemo:
 - Targeted chemo which damages cancer cells more than normal cells
 - Chemo that blocks the action of hormones
 - Chemo that works with the patient’s own immune system to destroy cancer cells

What are the Side Effects of Chemo?

- The side effects that can happen vary based on the type of chemo you are using.
- Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or nurse about what side effects you may expect.

Can I take Other Medications while on Chemo?

- Chemo can interact with other medications. Medications include ones obtained through prescription and over the counter. Herbs and supplements may also interact with chemo.
Inform your doctor or pharmacist of ALL medications, herbs or supplements that you taking or plan on taking.

Points to Remember:

- An accurate medication list helps us manage your care.

For Additional Information:

- American Cancer Society – www.cancer.org
- National Cancer Institute – www.cancer.gov
- Chemocare – www.chemocare.com

- National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) – www.nccn.org/patients