

KID'S QUESTIONS ABOUT CANCER



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WHAT CAUSES CANCER?

There are several reasons why cells become cancer cells. Most cancers happen by chance, which means nothing could have stopped the person getting cancer. Sometimes things in the environment help cause the cancer (for example, too much time in the sun's UV rays, an unhealthy diet, or cigarette smoke).

WHAT IS THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM AND WHAT ARE LYMPH NODES?

The lymphatic system is a part of the immune system. The immune system helps to keep our bodies healthy by fighting diseases and is found all over our body. Cancer cells can travel in the lymphatic system until they get stuck in little places called lymph nodes.

HOW DOES CANCER SPREAD?

Cancer cells move around the body in three main ways:

- 1) Growing directly into nearby parts of the body
- 2) Through the bloodstream
- 3) Through the lymphatic system

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CANCER?

Primary cancer refers to the place in the body where the cancer begins. Secondary cancer occurs when the cancer cells float off from the primary cancer, and travel to another place in the body and start to grow there.

WHAT IS INCURABLE OR TERMINAL CANCER?

If somebody has incurable or terminal cancer it means that their cancer can no longer be treated so the cancer will not go away. It means their illness is not getting better with the treatment they have been given.

WHY CAN'T ALL CANCERS BE CURED?

There are over 200 different types of cancer and unfortunately one treatment can not cure all of these types.

WHAT DOES HAVING CANCER FEEL LIKE?

It depends on where the cancer is in the body. If the cancer tumour is big enough to press on parts of the body, it may be painful or make a person dizzy or make the person not want to eat. It can make people feel very tired and can make them feel sad, angry or scared.

CAN YOU CATCH CANCER?

No. Cancer is a disease that begins inside the cells and cannot be caught like chicken pox or flu. You can be near, touch and cuddle a person with cancer.

DID I DO SOMETHING THAT CAUSED THE CANCER?

No. Nothing that anyone does, say or thinks can cause cancer in someone else.

IF I WISH FOR THE CANCER TO GO AWAY, WILL IT?

Sadly, wishing a cancer gone won't make it disappear.