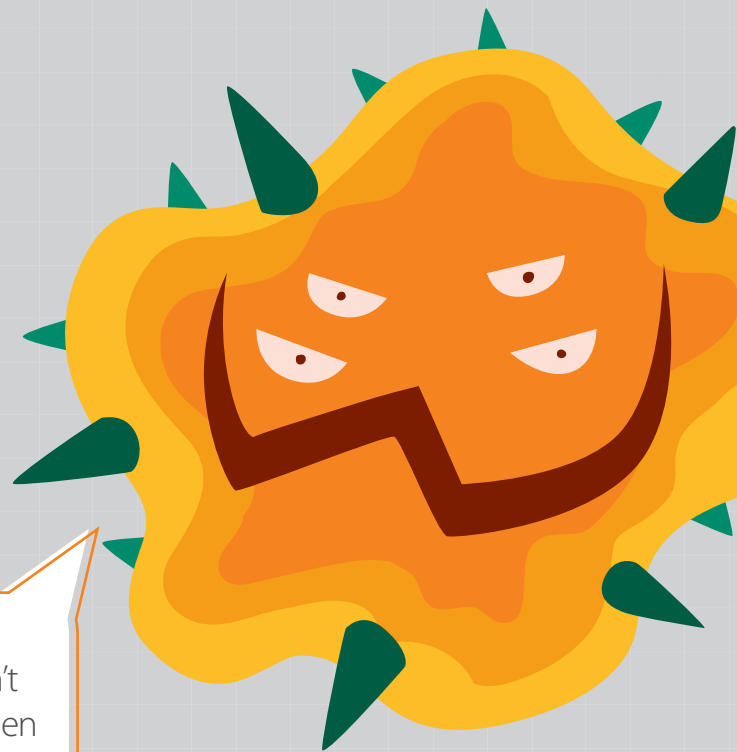


13 (NEED TO KNOW) CANCER TERMS



I'm cancer – a word no one wants to hear – a diagnosis no one wants to have. There's a lot you don't know about me; how I move; where I strike; I start when cells become altered and grow out of control. It's getting harder for me to be around with the advancements in detection and treatment.



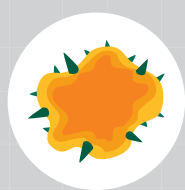
JANE

Take Jane, for example. She is a healthy, middle-aged woman. She had no idea I was growing in her as a **malignant tumor**, because I caused her no pain. I went undetected for months. By the time she was referred to an **oncologist**, I had **metastasized** to other organs. They saw me from an MRI and immediately were **staging** me. Her doctors went after me aggressively. She had a **port** placed under her collar bone and started **chemotherapy** treatments. Sure, the medicine could have made her sick, but she just got tired easily. She's tough, that Jane. Now I'm leaving her alone. She'll need to be watched very closely. If I come back, she may need **immunotherapy**. Knowing Jane, she'd participate in **clinical trials**. Her daughter has agreed to **genetic testing**.



JEFF

Jeff found me much faster. I was in his lungs, making it hard for him to breathe. He went to his family doctor, someone who knew Jeff and his health history. That doctor ordered a lot of tests, including blood work and scans. The doctor found a tumor and performed a **needle biopsy**. They found me quickly and operated to get me out of his lung. They even tested the area around the tumor and lymph nodes. The surgeon sent what was removed to the **pathologist**. The **margins** and lymph nodes were negative for cancer. Jeff didn't need chemotherapy or **radiation**. The doctors make Jeff visit them and use CT scans to watch for any signs that I've returned.



MALIGNANT TUMOR

A tumor is an abnormal lump or mass of tissue. If it contains cancer cells, it is malignant.



ONCOLOGIST

Doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.



METASTASIZED

Spread of cancer cells from the original site to one or more sites elsewhere in the body.



STAGING

The process of finding out whether cancer has spread and if so, how far. There is more than one system for staging different types of cancer.



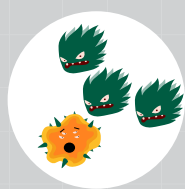
NEEDLE BIOPSY

A procedure to remove fluid, cells or tissue with a needle to test for the existence of cancer.



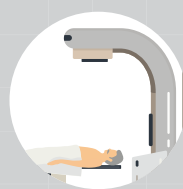
PORT

A device placed under the skin to put medicine into the bloodstream.



IMMUNOTHERAPY

A form of treatment that uses the body's immune system to fight cancer.



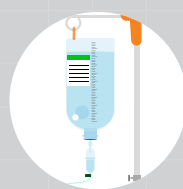
RADIATION

A form of treatment that uses precise high energy rays to destroy cancer cells and shrink tumors.



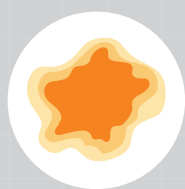
PATHOLOGIST

Doctor who specializes in the examination of tissue and blood samples to diagnose disease.



CHEMOTHERAPY

A form of treatment, sometimes referred to as "chemo," that uses drugs to destroy cancer cells.



MARGINS

The tissue beyond the visible edge of the tumor or abnormal tissue that is removed with the tumor or abnormality, in an effort to get all the cancer.



CLINICAL TRIALS

Voluntary participation to test new drugs or procedures to develop treatment for serious diseases.



GENETIC TESTING

Tests that can be done to see if a person has certain gene changes known to increase cancer risks, or to direct treatment options. It's recommended for people with a family history of certain types of cancer.

Clinical trials, immunotherapy, chemo, radiation – I'm under attack.

