

Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of cancer vary by the type and stage (extent) of the cancer. Many cancers do not have noticeable symptoms in the early stages and often symptoms are only detectable with a focused self-examination, a physical exam by a physician, or a radiological (X-ray) or laboratory screening test.

It is important to have regular physician examinations by your physician. Monthly self-examinations of breast, testicles, skin and the mouth area are also recommended. Advise your physician immediately if you notice any of the symptoms below as they may be early indicators of cancer.

- **Breast abnormalities**
Such as a lump or thickening in or near the breast or in the underarm area, a change in the size or shape of the breast, a change in the color or feel of the skin of the breast, areola, or nipple (dimpled, puckered, or scaly), nipple discharge, erosion, inversion, or tenderness.
- **Changes in bowel habits or bleeding**
Any change in bowel habits that lasts more than two days, bleeding of the rectum, blood in the stool, gnawing stomach pain or jaundice.
- **Spots on the skin**
That are new or changing in size, shape, feel, or color should be evaluated promptly.
- **Unusual pain or sores in the mouth that do not go away**
- **Lump or swelling on the testicle**
- **Unusual vaginal bleeding**
Which may start and stop between regular menstrual periods or occur after sexual intercourse, douching, or a pelvic exam.
- **Urination difficulties (for men)**
Including weak or interrupted flow, blood in the urine, frequent urination (especially at night), or difficult or painful urination.