

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF CANCER?

It is important to know some of the general signs and symptoms of cancer. Having any of these signs and symptoms doesn't mean there is a cancer but long lasting and getting worse of these signs and symptoms requires to consult the doctor.

UNEXPLAINED WEIGHT LOSS

- Losing weight for no known reason called as unexplained weight loss
- An unexplained weight loss of 10 pounds (4.5 Kg) or more may be the first sign of cancer
- This happens most often with cancers of the pancreas, stomach, esophagus, or lung



FEVER

- Almost all patients with cancer will have fever at some time, especially if the cancer or its treatment affects the immune system.
- Fever may be an early sign of cancer, such as blood cancers like leukemia or lymphoma.

FATIGUE

- It is an extreme tiredness that does not get better with rest
- May be an important symptom as cancer grows
- It may happen early, though, in some cancers, like leukemia



PAIN

- It may be the symptom of bone cancers or testicular cancers
- A headache that does not go away or get better with treatment may be a symptom of a brain tumor
- Back pain can be a symptom of cancer of the colon, rectum or ovary
- Most often, pain due to cancer means it has already spread (metastasized) from where it started



SKIN CHANGES

- Along with cancers of the skin, some other cancers can cause skin changes that can be seen. These signs and symptoms include:
 - ✓ Darker looking skin (hyperpigmentation)
 - ✓ Yellowish skin and eyes (jaundice)
 - ✓ Reddened skin (erythema)
 - ✓ Itching (pruritus)
 - ✓ Excessive hair growth

CHANGE IN BOWEL HABITS OR BLADDER FUNCTION

- Long-term constipation, diarrhea, or a change in the size of the stool may be a sign of colon cancer
- Pain when passing urine, blood in the urine, or a change in bladder function could be related to **bladder or prostate cancer**

UNUSUAL BLEEDING OR DISCHARGE

- Unusual bleeding can happen in early or advanced cancer
 - Coughing up blood in the sputum (phlegm): **Lung cancer**
 - Blood in the stool (which can look like very dark or black stool) : **colon or rectal cancer**
 - Abnormal vaginal bleeding : **Cancer of the cervix or the *endometrium*** (lining of the uterus)
 - Blood in the urine: **Bladder or kidney cancer**
 - Bloody discharge from the nipple: **Breast cancer**

THICKENING OR LUMP IN THE BREAST OR OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY

- Many cancers can be felt through the skin
- These cancers occur mostly in the breast, testicle, lymph nodes (glands), and the soft tissues of the body
- A lump or thickening may be an early or late sign of cancer