

Cancer is a group of diseases which can cause almost any sign or symptom. The signs will depend on where the cancer is located, how big it is, and how much it pushes against organs and tissues. A cancer which has spread can result in symptoms in different parts of the body. Having one of these symptoms does not mean that cancer is the cause. Many other things could cause these conditions. Experiencing a combination of symptoms however is a stronger indication to see your doctor for a comprehensive look.

These are some of the general signs and symptoms of cancer:

UNEXPECTED WEIGHT LOSS

Losing 10 pounds without reason.



SORES THAT DO NOT HEAL

Skin cancers may bleed and look like sores that don't heal. Long lasting sore in the mouth. Sores on the genitals may be sign of infection or early cancer.



PAIN:

May be an early symptom with some cancers like bone and testicular cancer. A headache that does not go away or get better with treatment could indicate a brain tumor.



FATIGUE:

Extreme tiredness that doesn't improve with rest.



UNUSUAL BLEEDING OR DISCHARGE

Coughing up blood, blood in the stool and urine, abnormal vaginal bleeding.



LUMPS

A lump or thickening in the breast, testicle, lymph nodes, and soft body tissues.



FEVER

It most often happens when cancer has spread from its original location.



SKIN CHANGES

Along with skin cancer, other cancers can change the skin. Signs include: darker looking skin, yellowish skin and eyes, reddened skin, itching, excessive hair growth.



RECENT CHANGE IN A WART OR MOLE

Any wart, mole, or freckle that changes color, size, or shape, or loses its sharp border should be seen by a doctor right away.



CHANGE IN BOWEL HABITS OR BLADDER FUNCTION

Long term constipation, diarrhea, or change in stool size. Pain when urinating, blood in the urine, needing to urinate more or less often than usual.



WHITE PATCHES INSIDE THE MOUTH OR WHITE SPOTS ON THE TONGUE

Smoking pipes or using oral or spit tobacco places you at high risk.



INDIGESTION OR TROUBLE SWALLOWING

Problems that don't go away may indicate cancer.

