

## Cancer Chemotherapy

Your body is made of billions of cells that, under a microscope, may look something like this.



Normal cells live, grow, die, and new cells are formed.

Cancer cells are not healthy. They grow when they are not needed. They keep forming without control.



Chemotherapy is drug therapy that can destroy these cells and stop them from multiplying.

However, it can also harm healthy cells. This can cause side effects.

Healthy cells usually recover after chemotherapy.

During chemotherapy you may have no side effects, just a few, or many.

The kinds and the intensity of side effects you have depend on the type and dose of chemotherapy you get.



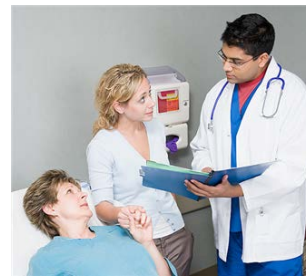
Side effects vary, but common ones are nausea, vomiting, tiredness, pain and hair loss.

There are many treatments that can help with side effects.

Healthy cells usually recover after chemotherapy, so most side effects gradually go away.

Hair lost during chemotherapy treatment will grow back.

Your course of therapy will depend on the cancer type, the chemotherapy drugs used, the treatment goal and how your body responds.



You may get treatment every day, every week or every month.

You may have breaks between treatments so that your body has a chance to build new healthy cells.

You might take the drugs by mouth, in a shot or intravenously.

Your doctor will choose the chemotherapy medicines and treatment schedule that is best for you.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions.

### **A project by Health Roads Media and EthnoMed**

This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, under Contract No. HHS-N-276-2011-0008-C with the University of Washington.

Thank you to Safeway Foundation for its support to Harborview Medical Center's EthnoMed for the development of cancer-related content.