

When Someone in Your Family Has Cancer

- More people are living with cancer now than ever before, and new ways to treat cancer are being discovered.
- Having cancer does not necessarily mean a person will die from it.
- Nothing you did or did not do caused your family member to get the cancer.
- Cancer is not contagious. You can't catch it from someone else or give it to anyone else.
- You or your parents could not have protected your brother or sister from getting cancer.
- Nobody can tell you why your parent or brother or sister is sick and you're healthy.
- Nothing you thought or said caused your family member to get cancer.
- Don't be ashamed or afraid of the way you feel. Others in your situation have felt the same way.
- Sometimes things are better if you talk about them. Share your feelings with your parents, another adult, or a support group member.
- Learn about cancer and the way it is treated. What we first imagine about cancer is often far worse than what is really happening.
- Try to find another people who have a person in the family with cancer or a serious illness. You may be able to share your feelings with them. A support group may be very helpful.
- If you overhear someone talking and what you heard scares you, ask them to explain what they said. Don't assume that you heard everything and understood what it meant; ask about it.

Doctors Who Work With Cancer Patients

- Hematologist – A doctor who is a specialist in the study and treatment of blood diseases.
- Medical Oncologist – A doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating cancer using chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, biological therapy, and targeted therapy.
- Pathologist – A doctor who is a specialist in the study of cells and tissues removed from the body as well in making a diagnosis based on the changes in these cells.
- Radiation Oncologist – A doctor who is a specialist in using radiation to treat cancer.
- Radiologist – A doctor who is a specialist in making and explaining pictures of areas inside the body. These pictures are made with x-rays, sound waves, or other types of energy.
- Surgeon – A doctor who is a specialist in doing operations.



*"When Someone in Your Family Has Cancer", National Cancer Institute

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