

Bone Cancer - Risk Factors [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 08/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about the factors that increase the chance of developing this type of cancer. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

A risk factor is anything that increases a person's chance of developing cancer. Although risk factors can often influence the development of cancer, most do not directly cause cancer. Some people with several risk factors never develop cancer, while others with no known risk factors do. However, knowing your risk factors and talking about them with your doctor may help you make more informed lifestyle and health care choices.

The following factors may raise a person's risk of developing bone cancer:

Genetics. Children with familial [retinoblastoma](#) [3], which is a type of eye cancer, have an increased risk of developing osteosarcoma.

Previous radiation therapy. People who have had radiation treatment for other conditions have a higher risk of developing bone cancer at the site of the radiation therapy. The majority of radiation therapy-caused sarcomas include angiosarcoma and UPS of soft tissue or [osteosarcoma](#) [4], but other types may occur.

Chemotherapy. Some drugs, including alkylating agents and anthracyclines, used to treat cancer may increase the risk of developing a secondary cancer, usually osteosarcoma.

Benign tumors or other bone conditions. Paget disease of the bone may lead to osteosarcoma. Other noncancerous bone diseases, such as fibrous dysplasia, may increase the risk of osteosarcoma.

Currently, there is no known way to prevent bone cancer. Early detection offers the best hope for successful treatment, so people with known risk factors are encouraged to visit the doctor regularly and talk with him or her about it. Still, most bone cancer occurs in people with no known risk factors.

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Links:

- [1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/bone-cancer/risk-factors>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/31381>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/31389>