

## Endocrine Tumor - Side Effects

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board \[1\]](#), July / 2011

### Side Effects

A tumor and its treatment can cause a variety of side effects. However, doctors have made major strides in recent years in reducing pain, nausea and vomiting, and other physical side effects of treatments. Many treatments used today are less intensive but as effective as treatments used in the past. Doctors also have many ways to provide relief to patients when such side effects occur.

[Fear of treatment side effects \[2\]](#) is common after a diagnosis of a tumor, but it may be helpful to know that preventing and controlling side effects is a major focus of your health care team. Before treatment begins, talk with your doctor about possible side effects of the specific treatments you will be receiving. The specific side effects that can occur depend on a variety of factors, including the type of tumor, its location, the individual treatment plan (including the length and dosage of treatment), and your overall health. Common side effects for each treatment option are described in detail within the [Treatment \[3\]](#) section.

Ask your doctor which side effects are most likely to happen (and which are not), when side effects are likely to occur, and how they will be addressed by the health care team. Also, be sure to communicate with the doctor about side effects you experience during and after treatment. Care of a patient's symptoms and side effects is an important part of a person's overall treatment plan; this is called [palliative or supportive care \[4\]](#). It helps people with an endocrine tumor at any stage of illness be as comfortable as possible. Learn more about [the most common side effects of cancer and different treatments, along with ways to prevent or control them \[5\]](#).

Be sure to talk with your doctor about the level of caregiving you may need during treatment and recovery, as family members and friends often play an important role in the care of a person with an endocrine tumor. Learn more about [caregiving \[6\]](#).

In addition to physical side effects, there may be psychosocial (emotional and social) effects as well. For many patients, a diagnosis of an endocrine tumor is stressful and can bring difficult emotions. Patients and their families are encouraged to share their feelings with a member of their health care team who can help with [coping strategies \[7\]](#). Learn more about the importance of [addressing such needs \[8\]](#), including concerns about [managing the cost of your medical care \[9\]](#).

A side effect that occurs more than five years after treatment is called a [late effect \[10\]](#). Treatment of late effects is an important part of survivorship care. Learn more about late effects or long-term side effects by reading the [After Treatment \[11\]](#) section or talking with your doctor.

#### Links:

- [1] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24492>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18749>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25282>
- [5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25238>
- [6] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25009>
- [7] <http://www.cancer.net/node/21>
- [8] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25010>
- [9] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24865>
- [10] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25396>
- [11] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18752>