Managing Side Effects

Cancer and cancer treatment often cause a variety of side effects. Talk with your doctor about which side effects are likely based on your specific treatment plan. An important part of cancer care is relieving side effects, called symptom management, palliative care, or supportive care. It is important to talk with your health care team about the specific side effects you experience and the best ways to manage and treat them.

To learn about the symptoms and management of the long-term side effects of cancer and cancer treatment, see Cancer.Net's Late Effects [1] section.

To easily track the side effects of cancer and cancer treatment, Cancer.Net offers a free mobile application for iOS and Android called Cancer.Net Mobile [2]. Cancer.Net Mobile includes a function to record the time and severity of symptoms and side effects for easy recall, as well as several other helpful features for people undergoing cancer treatment.

Cancer.Net En Español [3]: Información sobre cómo controlar los posibles efectos secundarios del cáncer y del tratamiento contra el cáncer.

Anemia [4]

Appetite Loss [5]

Attention, Thinking, or Memory Problems [6]

Bleeding Problems [7]

Blocked Intestine or Gastrointestinal Obstruction [8]

Clotting Problems [9]

Constipation [10]

Diarrhea [11]

Difficulty Chewing [12]

Difficulty Swallowing or Dysphagia [13]

Dry Mouth or Xerostomia [14]

Edema or Fluid Retention [15]

Fatigue [16]

Fluid Around the Lungs or Malignant Pleural Effusion [17]

Fluid in the Abdomen or Ascites [18]

Fluid in the Arms or Legs, or Lymphedema [19]

Hair Loss or Alopecia [20]

Hand-Foot Syndrome or Palmar-Plantar Erythrodysesthesia [21]

Headaches [22]

Hormone Deprivation Symptoms: Men [23]

Hypercalcemia [24]

Infection [25]

Menopausal Symptoms: Women [26]

Mental Confusion or Delirium [27]

Mouth Sores or Mucositis [28]

Nausea and Vomiting [29]

Nervous System Side Effects [30]

Neutropenia [31]

Osteoporosis [32]

Pain [33]

Sexual Problems [34]

Skin Conditions [35]

Shortness of Breath or Dyspnea [36]

Skin Reactions to Targeted Therapies [37]

Sleeping Problems: Hypersomnia or Somnolence Syndrome or Nightmares [38]

Sleeping Problems: Insomnia [39]

Superior Vena Cava Syndrome [40]

Taste Changes [41]

Thrombocytopenia [42]

Urinary Incontinence [43]

Weight Gain [44]

Weight Loss [45]

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/node/25396
[2] http://www.cancer.net/node/25555
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/25911
[4] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/anemia
[5] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/appetite-loss
[6] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/attention-thinking-memory-problems
[7] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/bleeding-problems
[8] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/blocked-intestine-or-gastrointestinal-obstruction
[9] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/clotting-problems
[10] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/constipation
[11] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/diarrhea
[12] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/difficulty-chewing
[13] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/difficulty-swallowing-or-dysphagia
[14] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/dry-mouth-or-xerostomia
[15] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/edema-or-fluid-retention
[16] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/fatigue
[17] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/fluid-around-lungs-or-malignant-pleural-effusion
[18] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/fluid-abdomen-or-ascites
[19] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/fluid-arms-or-legs-or-lymphedema
[20] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/hair-loss-or-alopecia
[21] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/hand-foot-syndrome-or-palmar-plantar-erythrodysesthesia
[22] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/headaches
[23] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/hormone-deprivation-symptoms-men
[24] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/hypercalcemia
[25] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/infection
[26] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/menopausal-symptoms-women
[27] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/mental-confusion-or-delirium
[28] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/mouth-sores-or-mucositis
[29] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/nausea-and-vomiting
[30] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/nervous-system-side-effects
[31] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/neutropenia
[32] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/osteoporosis
[33] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/pain
[34] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/sexual-problems

[35] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/skin-conditions
[36] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/shortness-breath-or-dyspnea
[37] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/skin-reactions-targeted-therapies
[38] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/sleeping-problems-hypersomnia-or-somnolence-syndrome-or-nightmares
[39] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/sleeping-problems-insomnia
[40] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/superior-vena-cava-syndrome
[41] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/taste-changes
[42] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/thrombocytopenia
[43] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/urinary-incontinence
[44] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/weight-gain
[45] http://www.cancer.net/all-about-cancer/treating-cancer/managing-side-effects/weight-loss