

# Obesity's Link to Cancer

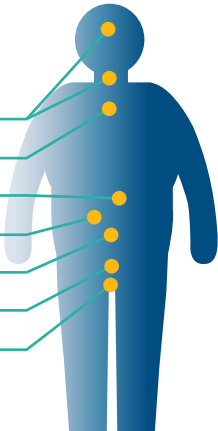
*"Obesity is on its way to replacing tobacco as the number one preventable cause of cancer. We need to confront this growing problem and develop all the necessary tools to limit its impact." - Clifford Hudis, MD, 2013-2014 ASCO President*

## Obesity Increases Cancer Risk

### Cancers Linked to Obesity

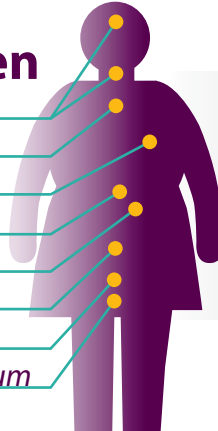
#### Men

Head/neck  
Esophagus  
Pancreas  
Kidney  
Colon  
Rectum  
Prostate



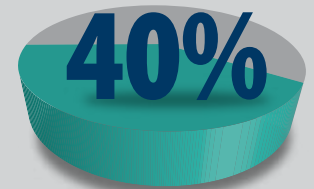
#### Women

Head/neck  
Esophagus  
Breast  
Pancreas  
Kidney  
Colon  
Rectum  
Endometrium



In 2007, more than **84,000** new cancer cases were due to obesity.

The percentage of cancer cases attributed to obesity varies, but is as high as **40%** for some cancers, particularly esophageal and endometrial.



Overweight/obesity contributes to as many as **1 in 5 cancer-related deaths**.

## Mechanisms Linking Obesity and Cancer



**Obese people often have increased levels of insulin** and insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) in their blood, which may promote the development of certain tumors.



**Fat tissue produces higher amounts of estrogen**, which may drive development of certain obesity-related cancers, including estrogen-sensitive breast cancers and endometrial cancer.



**Obese people often have chronic low-level, or "subacute," inflammation**, which has been associated with increased cancer risk.



**Fat cells (adipocytes) may also have effects on certain tumor growth regulators.**