

BEEBE HEALTHCARE
MARGARET H. ROLLINS SCHOOL OF NURSING
NURSING 101 - FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING
COMMON CANCER TERMS
2023

TERM	DEFINITION
Alopecia	Loss of hair. This can result from disease as well as certain types of cancer treatments.
Anorexia	Loss of appetite. Many cancer patients lose their appetites because of their illness and/or therapies used to treat their illness.
Antiemetic	A medicine that prevents or controls vomiting or nausea.
Antineoplastic	A drug that kills or blocks the growth and/or spread of cancer cells.
Benign Tumor	An abnormal growth of tissue which does not spread from one body part to another.
Biopsy	The cutting out of a small piece of tissue for microscopic examination.
Cancer	A disease in which abnormal or malignant cells grow out of control and usually spread to other parts of the body.
Cancer In Situ	A small cancer that has not spread and is located on the surface of a tissue.
Carcinogen	A substance or agent which causes cancer.
Carcinoma	A kind of cancer which originates in the skin or membranes lining the interior of hollow organs, such as the lungs, intestines, uterus, breasts, etc. • Adenocarcinoma - Cancer of glandular cells of the body. • Basal Cell Carcinoma - The most common type of skin cancer. • Bronchogenic Carcinoma - Cancer originating in the lungs or bronchi. • Cervical Carcinoma - Cancer of the cervix or neck of the uterus. • Endometrial Carcinoma - Cancer of the lining of the uterus. • Large Cell Carcinoma - A type of bronchogenic carcinoma. • Oat Cell or Small Cell Carcinoma - Another type of bronchogenic carcinoma. • Squamous Cell Carcinoma - Cancer arising from the skin or the surfaces of other structures, such as the mouth, uterus, or bronchi.
Chemotherapy	The treatment of cancer with drugs. • Adjuvant Chemotherapy - Chemotherapy used in conjunction

	with surgery, radiation therapy or both to destroy cancer cells that may be otherwise unaffected. • Combination Chemotherapy - Simultaneous use of several drugs.
Cytology	A science which studies cells under the microscope.
Excision	Surgical removal (cutting out) of a part of the body.
Histology	Tissue examined under the microscope.
Immunotherapy	Artificial stimulation of the body's immune mechanism to treat or combat disease.
Irradiation	The use of x-rays for treating disease.
Lesion	An abnormal change in body tissue or organ due to a disease or injury.
Malignant Tumor	A tumor made up of cancer cells. A tumor that will tend to invade surrounding tissue and spread to other parts of the body.
Mammography	A low-dose x-ray examination of the breast to determine whether abnormal growths are present.
Metastasize	To spread from the original site.
Neoplasm	A new and abnormal growth of tissue or cells; a tumor; generally, a malignant tumor.
Non-Invasive	A type of neoplasm which does not invade or destroy nearby tissues.
Oncology	The study of cancer and treatment of malignant disease. Doctors who specialize in oncology are called "Oncologists".
Palliative Treatment	Treatment that relieves pain and symptoms of disease but which does not cure the disease.
Radiotherapy	The use of radiation for treatment of disease.
Remission	Complete or partial disappearance of a disease; the period during which a disease is under control.
Sarcoma	A malignant tumor of muscles and/or connective tissues such as bone and cartilage. • Chondrosarcoma - A malignant tumor of cartilage usually occurring near the ends of the long bones. • Ewing's Sarcoma - A malignant tumor arising in bone, affecting bones of the extremities. It often appears before age 20. • Hemangiosarcoma - A malignant tumor of blood or lymph vessels. • Osteosarcoma - A malignant tumor arising from bone-forming cells.

	• Synovial Sarcoma - A malignant tumor of joint tissue (knee, wrist). • Uterine Sarcoma - A malignant tumor of the muscle of the uterus.
Tumor	An abnormal swelling or enlargement of cells or tissues. Tumors may be benign or malignant.