

# General signs and symptoms of Cancer

## 1-Unexplained weight loss

Most people with cancer will lose weight at some point. This happens most often with cancers of the pancreas, stomach, esophagus (swallowing tube), or lung.

## 2-Fever

Fever is very common with cancer, but it more often happens after cancer has spread from where it started. Almost all people with cancer will have fever at some time, especially if the cancer or its treatment affects the immune system. (This can make it harder for the body to fight infection.) Less often, fever may be an early sign of cancer, such as blood cancers like leukemia or lymphoma.

## 3-Fatigue

Fatigue is extreme tiredness that doesn't get better with rest. It may be an important symptom as cancer grows. But it may happen early in some cancers, like leukemia. Some colon or stomach cancers can cause blood loss that's not obvious. This is another way cancer can cause fatigue.

## 4-Pain

Pain may be an early symptom with some cancers like bone cancers or testicular cancer. A headache that does not go away or get better with treatment may be a symptom of a brain tumor. Back pain can be a symptom of cancer of the colon, rectum, or ovary. Most often, pain due to cancer means it has already spread (metastasized) from where it started.

## 5-Skin changes

Along with skin cancers, some other cancers can cause skin changes that can be seen. These signs and symptoms include:

- Darker looking skin (*hyperpigmentation*)
- Yellowish skin and eyes (*jaundice*)
- Reddened skin (*erythema*)
- Itching (*pruritis*)
- Excessive hair growth

## 6-Changes in bowel habits

- blood in your stools
- diarrhoea or constipation for no obvious reason
- a feeling of not having fully emptied bowels after going to the toilet
- pain in stomach (abdomen) or back passage (anus)
- Persistent bloating

## **7-Bleeding**

- blood in urine
- bleeding between periods
- bleeding from bottom
- blood when cough
- blood in vomit

## **8-Moles**

- has an irregular or asymmetrical shape
- has an irregular border with jagged edges
- has more than one colour – it may be flecked with brown, black, red, pink or white
- is bigger than 7mm in diameter
- is itchy, crusting or bleeding

## **9-Lump in breast**

- lump that's rapidly increasing in size elsewhere on body.

## **10-Coughing, chest pain and breathlessness**

- Cough for more than three weeks.
- Symptoms such as shortness of breath or chest pain