

Cancer (pages 162–163)

Key Concept: Cancer is a disease in which cells multiply uncontrollably, over and over, destroying healthy tissue in the process.

- Normally, the body makes new cells at about the same rate that other cells die. In cancer, new cells are made too quickly. Cells keep dividing over and over again.

- Cancer cells may form a lump of tissue called a **tumor**.

A tumor can spread and kill healthy tissues nearby.

Tumor cells can also break away and travel in the blood. The cells may form new tumors in other parts of the body.

- Many things can cause cancer. Something that causes cancer is called a **carcinogen** (kahr SIN un jun). For example, tar in cigarette smoke is a carcinogen.

- Sometimes cancer can be treated with surgery to remove a tumor.

Sometimes medicines are taken to kill cancer cells. X-rays can also be used to kill cancer cells.

- You will be less likely to get cancer if you avoid things that cause cancer. For example, you will be less likely to get cancer if you do not smoke.

Answer the following questions.

1. Is the following sentence true or false? In cancer, new cells are made too slowly.

2. Draw a line from each term to its meaning.

Term

tumor

carcinogen

Meaning

a. something that causes cancer

b. lump of tissue formed by cancer cells

3. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about cancer.

a. You are less likely to get cancer if you do not smoke.

b. Surgery is the only way to treat cancer.

c. X-rays can be used to kill cancer cells.