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“Malignant” is a term used to describe active cancer cells or tumors. This is a general term, however, and may be applied to any condition that is serious enough to lead to a person’s death.The Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of malignant is, “tending to produce death or deterioration; tending to infiltrate, metastasize, and terminate fatally.”In medicine, the term malignant usually refers to a medical condition that is considered dangerous or likely to cause death if untreated. Many diseases can be considered malignant when they are fatal if untreated. Malignant is the opposite of benign, which is any condition or cancer that is treatable and generally not considered life-threatening. The term malignant is often associated with cancer because many cancers can be life-threatening if left untreated. Characteristics of malignant tumors include:Uncontrolled growthMalignant tumors have a higher rate of cell growth than the normal tissues from which the cells cameDifferent appearance from the cells from which it cameLoss of ability to perform the functions of the tissues from which it cameThe cells either function differently, incompletely, or not at allinvades and damages healthy cellsMetastasizes (spreads) to other organs of the bodyMalignant tumors invade and destroy areas far from the original site Treatment for malignant tumors varies and depends on a number of factors, such as: Tumor sizeLocationStage and gradeThe patient’s overall healthTreatments for malignant tumors may include one or more of the following: ChemotherapyRadiationHormone therapySurgery The prognosis for malignant cancer varies and most types are considered fatal. Treatment may help prolong a patient’s life but generally will not cure the cancer. Also found in: Dictionary, Thesaurus, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. [mah-lig´nănt] tending to become progressively worse and to result in death; having the properties of anaplasia, invasiveness, and metastasis; said of tumors.Miller-Keane Encyclopedia and Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health, Seventh Edition. © 2003 by Saunders, an imprint of Elsevier, Inc. All rights reserved. (mă-lig'nănt), 1. occurring in severe form, and frequently fatal; tending to become worse and leading to an inravescent course. 2. In reference to a neoplasm, having the property of locally invasive and destructive growth and metastasis. [L. maligno, pres. p. -ans (ant-), to do anything maliciously] Farlex Partner Medical Dictionary © Farlex 2012 (mə-lig'nənt)adj. Medicine a. Tending to metastasize: a malignant tumor.b. Virulent or threatening to life: a malignant disease.The American Heritage® Medical Dictionary Copyright © 2007, 2004 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved. Medspeakadjective Tending to harm, kill, maim; pernicious, life-threatening; resistant to treatment; severe (as in malignant hypertension); threatening to life; virulent. Oncologyadjective Referring to invasion and destruction of nearby tissue and spread to regions; referring to a neoplasm that invades surrounding tissue—which generally is unencapsulated—and grows by invasion, with vascular and lymphatic metastases.Segen's Medical Dictionary. © 2012 Farlex, Inc. All rights reserved. adjective Medtalk Tending to harm, kill, maim, pernicious, life-threatening, resistant to treatment, severe-as in malignant HTN, threatening to life, virulent. Cf Benign Oncology Cancerous; a tendency to invade and destroy nearby tissue and spread to other regions; referring to a neoplasm that invades surrounding tissue, which generally is unencapsulated, grows by invasion, with vascular and lymphatic metastases. See Cancer, Carcinogens, Congenital malignancy, Multiple primary malignancy syndrome, Metastasis, Occult primary malignancy, Occupational malignancy, Oncogenes, Post-trauma malignancy, Premalignancy, Secondary malignancy. McGraw-Hill Concise Dictionary of Modern Medicine. © 2002 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (mə-lig'nănt) 1. Resistant to treatment; occurring in severe form and frequently fatal; tending to become worse. 2. In reference to a neoplasm, having the properties of locally invasive and destructive growth and metastasis. Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions and Nursing © Farlex 2012 A term usually applied to cancerous tumours but also used to qualify unusually serious forms of various diseases tending to cause death unless effectively treated. The term is opposite in meaning to benign and derives from the Latin malignus , evil.Collins Dictionary of Medicine © Robert M. Youngson 2004, 2005 cancerous, capable of invading nearby tissue and spreading to other parts of the body.Collins Dictionary of Biology, 3rd ed. © W. G. Hale, V. A. Saunders, J. P. Margham 2005The term literally means growing worse and resisting treatment. It is used as a synonym for cancerous and connotes a harmful condition that generally is life-threatening.Mentioned in: Abdominal Ultrasound, Breast Cancer, Colon Cancer, Gallium Scan of the Body, Hairy Cell Leukemia, Laryngeal Cancer, Lymph Node Biopsy, Multiple Myeloma, Radical Neck Dissection, Rectal Cancer, Skin Biopsy, Wilms' TumorGale Encyclopedia of Medicine. Copyright 2008 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved. (mə-lig'nănt) 1. Resistant to treatment; occurring in severe form and frequently fatal; tending to become worse. 2. In reference to a neoplasm, having the properties of locally invasive and destructive growth. Medical Dictionary for the Dental Professions © Farlex 2012Q. how many types of cancer are they? A. There are over 200 different types of cancer. You can develop cancer in any body organ. There are over 60 different organs in the body where you can get a cancer. Each organ is made up of several different tissue types. For example, there is usually a surface covering of skin or epithelial tissue. Underneath that there will be some connective tissue, often containing gland cells. Underneath that there is often a layer of muscle tissue and so on. Each type of tissue is made up of specific types of cells. Cancer can develop in just about any type of cell in the body. So there is almost always more than one type of cancer that can develop in any one organ.Q. why does it call "cancer"?can you treat cancer? A. the name came from the appearance of the cut surface of a solid malignant tumour, with the veins stretched on all sides as the animal the crab has its feet, whence it derives its name. Hippocrates first called it in that name after describing few types of cancer. some of the cancers are treatable but that is a big subject. there are some very nice videos here on the site that can give you a clue about that. just search them there ^ ->Q. Cancer - incurable? When i was surfing the internet for the incurable disease, i found CANCER is one among them. Is there not a medicine found yet? Really is it incurable?A. I like to share with you what i read from a book it said 'With modern day treatments many cancers are completely cured but unfortunately there are still many others which are not. Although it is not always possible to be certain, doctors are often able to tell whether or not a particular cancer might be cured. Even if cancer is incurable they will usually still offer treatment in the hope of prolonging life and, controlling, symptoms.' discussions about MalignantThis content is provided by iMedix and is subject to iMedix Terms. The Questions and Answers are not endorsed or recommended and are made available by patients, not doctors. Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: