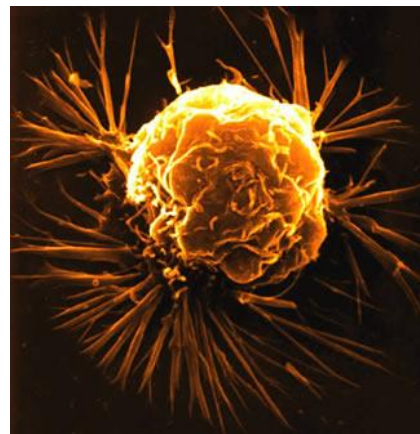
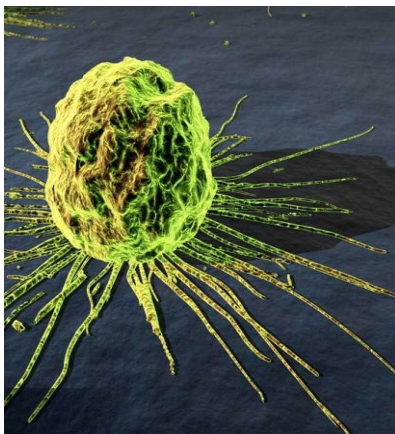


CANCER:

What is cancer?

Cancer is a disease of the cells in the body.

The body is made up from millions of tiny cells. There are many different types of cells in the body, and there are many different types of cancer which arise from different types of cells. What all types of cancer have in common is that the cancer cells are abnormal and multiply 'out of control'. A malignant tumour is a 'lump' or 'growth' of tissue made up from cancer cells which continue to multiply.



Malignant tumours invade into nearby tissues and organs which can cause damage. Malignant tumours may also spread to other parts of the body. This happens if some cells break off from the first (primary) tumour and are carried in the bloodstream or lymph channels to other parts of the body. These small groups of cells may then multiply to form 'secondary' tumours (metastases) in one or more parts of the body. These secondary tumours may then grow, invade and damage nearby tissues, and spread again.

Some cancers are more serious than others, some are more easily treated than others (particularly if diagnosed at an early stage), and some have a better outlook (prognosis) than others. So, cancer is not just one condition. In each case it is important to know exactly what type of cancer has developed, how large it has become, and whether it has spread. This will enable you to get reliable information on treatment options and outlook.



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ECS/Sept 2011