

# Glossary of Cancer Terms For Noogieland Kids

A special thank you to Mary Ann Rohrbaugh from St. Mary Medical Center  
for helping with this list.

## A

**Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC)** - The total number of neutrophils in the blood count.

**Acute** - when an illness happens quickly but usually doesn't last too long.

**Alopecia** - hair loss caused by a disease or treatment for a disease. An example of a treatment is chemotherapy.

**Anemia** -Low Red Blood Cell Counts. Patients with anemia may feel very tired or short of breath.

**Anesthesia** - medicine that will make you fall asleep.

**Anesthesiologist** - a specially trained person who gives anesthesia during surgeries.

**Angiogram** - a type of x-ray that uses a special dye to see things like tumors

**Apheresis** - a procedure that involves removing a specific part of the things that make up our blood. A machine separates the different parts such as platelets and plasma.

## B

**Basophils** - a type of white blood cell that helps during an allergic reaction.

**Benign** - tumors that are slow growing, that do not have cancer and will not spread to other areas in the body.

**Biopsy** - A sample of tissue is taken out of the body and tested for cancer cells.

**Blastoma** - Blastic tumor, a type of cancerous tumor.

**Blood Cancer** - a type of cancer that is in a person's blood. An example is leukemia.

**Bone Marrow** - The liquid spongy part inside our bones. This is where blood cells are made.

**Bone Marrow Aspirate** - A test with a needle to see if bone marrow has cancer.

Local anesthesia is used to numb the area where the needle will be inserted.

**Bone Marrow Biopsy** - A test with a needle in which a very small piece of bone is removed to test the blood cells in the bone marrow for cancer. Local anesthesia is used to numb the area the needle will be inserted.

**Breast Cancer** - a type of cancerous tumor that occurs in breast cells.

## C

**Cancer** - is a group of cells that are sick. They divide faster than they should, they live longer than they should and they grow faster than they should.

Cancer can grow in any part of someone's body. There are lots of different kinds of cancer.

**Cancer Care Team** - all of the people who help a person with their cancer.

**Carcinogens** - things such as tobacco smoke and chemicals that are believed to cause cancer in some people.

**Carcinoma** - a type of cancerous tumor.

**CAT Scan** - Computed Tomography Scan - a special type of x-ray that takes pictures of a person from every angle. This type of x-ray shows a lot more detail than regular x-rays.

**CBC** - Complete Blood Count - a blood test that checks red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.

**Cell** - the basic building block of all living things.

**Central Venous Line** - is a catheter placed in a vein in your chest. You can get your chemotherapy treatments and blood tests with this line instead of using a needle every time.

**Cerebrospinal Fluid** - the clear, colorless liquid that surrounds our brains and spinal chord.

**Chaplin** - a person who offers spiritual guidance to others.

**Chemotherapy** - medicine that stops cancer cells from growing or destroys cancer cells. There are many kinds of chemotherapy. Some will make you feel sick for a while. You may feel nauseous, extremely tired, need to vomit, get sores in your mouth, loose your hair and lower your blood counts.

**Child Life Staff** - A person who helps support kids and their families during hospital stays.

**Child Psychologist** - A specially trained person to help kids talk about their feelings.

**Chromosomes** - information in cells that carry our DNA or our genetic make up.

**Chronic** - when an illness happens over a long time.

**Clinical Trials** - a study to see if a new drug will treat a specific type of cancer.

When a new drug is made by scientists, it needs to be tested for a long time. After it is tested in a laboratory, it is ready to be tested on people. This is called a clinical trial.

**Counselor** - A person who help people talk about their feelings.

## D

Dehydration - low fluids in the body

Dietician - a person who is an expert on what foods are healthy for us to eat when we are healthy and when we are sick.

## E

Edema - swelling in hands, feet and legs from fluid build up in the body.

Eosinophils - a type of white blood cell that helps during an allergic reaction.

Ewing Sarcoma - a type of bone cancer that usually occurs in the hip or leg.

## F

Fellow - a doctor who is learning to be a specialist in a medical area such as oncology.

## G

Gallium Scan - a type of test when a doctor injects a person with gallium to find a tumor.

Gastrostomy Tube (G-tube) - Is a tube that your doctor will put in your stomach if you can't eat anything with your mouth. The nurses will then put special food in the tube so your body has nourishment.

Grade - a scale that is used to help figure out how aggressive a cancer is. A lower grade means that the cancer can be cured while a higher grade means that it will be very difficult to cure.

## H

Hematocrit - is the percentage of red blood cells.

Hematologist - a doctor who specializes in blood diseases.

Hematology - the study and treatment of blood diseases.

Hemoglobin - a count that tells doctors how much oxygen the red blood cells can carry. Normal hemoglobin is 12-16. A low hemoglobin may cause tiredness and shortness of breath.

Hepatoblastoma - a type of liver cancer.

Hodgkin's Disease - A type of cancer in the lymph and immune system.

Hospice - special care given to a person when he/she is not going to get better from their illness.

## I

Imaging Studies - tests that are painless and give a detailed picture of the body. Examples ultrasounds, CAT scans, MRIs and x-rays.

Immunosuppression - when someone is getting chemotherapy, the chemo causes the body to be at a higher risk for getting sick from colds, coughs, the flu or other illnesses spread by germs. They have a suppressed immune system.

Intensive Care (ICU) - A place in a hospital for patients who need a lot of care or special care by nurses and doctors

## L

Leukemia - A type of cancer that is in the blood.

Leukocyte - a type of white blood cell

Local Anesthesia - a cream or injection that numbs an area of the skin that is being tested.

Low Blood Counts - chemotherapy & radiation destroy not only cancer cells, but also good cells. If good cell counts of white blood cells, red blood cells or platelets are low, it said to be a low blood count.

Lumbar Puncture - Also called a spinal tap. A test with a needle to see if cancer cells are found in the fluid around the brain and spinal cord (back). Local anesthesia is used to numb the area the needle will be inserted.

Lumpectomy - a procedure for someone who has breast cancer in which part of the breast is removed in order to remove a cancerous tumor

Lymph - a clear fluid that contains things like protein and white blood cells. Lymph travels throughout the body in its own system called the Lymph System.

Lymph Nodes - a part of the lymph system that acts like a filter that catches germs.

Lymphangiogram - a test in which a doctor injects a dye into the lymph system and then takes x-rays.

Lymphocytes - white blood cells that make antibodies

Lymphoma - A type of cancer in the lymph and immune system.

## M

MRI - Magnetic resonance imaging - a painless test that takes pictures of the body. A person has to lay very still for a long time and sometimes go into a very small tunnel. While the machine is taking pictures, it is very loud.

Malignant - a term used when a tumor has cancer.

Mammogram - special x-rays taken of the breast.

Mastectomy - the removal of an entire breast to help stop the spread of breast cancer in a person.

Melanoma - a type of skin cancer.

Metastasis - When cancer cells spread from the original area they grew in or spread to other parts of the body

Metastatic Tumors - A site where cancer is now found that is different from the original site or primary tumor.

Monocytes - white blood cells that help fight infection by destroying bacteria.

Myelogram - an x-ray of the spine.

## N

Nadir - is the lowest level a blood count reaches.

Nephrologist - a doctor who studies and treats kidney problems.

Neuroblastoma - a type of cancerous tumor.

Neurosurgeon - a special doctor who operates only on the brain and nervous system.

Neutropenia - low white blood cell count. A patient who is neutropenic can get an infection very easily.

Neutrophils - a type of white blood cell that fights bacterial infections.

Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma - a type of cancer in the lymph system.

Nurse Practitioner (NP) - A special nurse who can help the doctor with more things than a Registered Nurse (RN).

## O

Oncologist - a doctor who helps people who have cancer

Oncology - the study and treatment of cancer

Oncology Physician - an oncologist

Osteosarcoma - a type of bone cancer.

## P

Pathology Lab - The place where blood and tissue samples are sent in hospitals to be tested.

Pediatric Hematology - the study and treatment of childhood blood diseases.

Pediatric Oncologist - a doctor who helps kids who have cancer.

PET Scan -Positron Emission Tomography - a type of imaging study that helps doctors see how some important body functions are working. If a tumor is present, these functions (blood flow, oxygen use, and sugar metabolism) will work differently than normal.

Phlebotomist - a person who collects blood for testing. A needle is used to do this.

Physical Therapist - a specially trained person who helps people to learn to move their bodies again after they have been sick, injured or had surgery.

Plasma - a yellowish liquid that travels throughout the body carrying blood cells.

Platelets - cells that stop a person from bleeding.

Play Therapy Staff - Special people who are available to play with kids when they are in the hospital.

Port - something that a surgeon places under the skin so people don't have to get so many needles. Medicine, nutrients and other things can be given through the port. Blood tests can also be done through the port.

Primary Surgery - is when your doctor will try to remove the tumor.

Primary Tumor - the site where cancer first started growing.

Psychologist - a specially trained person to help kids and adults talk about their feelings.

## R

Radiation Field - is the area marked on your body where radiation therapy will be given.

Radiation Oncologist - a doctor who specializes in administering radiation.

Radiation Therapist - a specially trained person who helps the radiation oncologist give radiation to people with cancer.

Radiation Therapy - is the use of special x-rays to stop cancer cells from growing or to destroy them.

Radiologist - a doctor who reads x-rays and scans.

Red Blood Cells - carry oxygen throughout the body.

Relapse - when cancer returns after it had been gone.

Remission - when someone is cancer free. They have no more cancer.

Resident - a person who is training to be a doctor

## S

Sarcoma - a type of cancerous tumor.

Second Look Surgery - is when your doctor opens up the area where the cancer is/was to see how the chemotherapy and/or radiation is working.

Secondary Tumor - a tumor with cells that spread from the primary tumor.

Sedation - When medicines are used that will make you feel sleepy.

Side Effects - unwanted effect from taking a medicine. For example, a side effect of chemotherapy is often hair loss.

Simulation - is the process used to mark the radiation field on your body where radiation will be given.

Skin Cancer - A type of cancer that occurs on skin. An example is melanoma.

Social Worker - A person who can help people with cancer and their families get things they need and help them with their feelings.

Spinal Tap - also called lumbar puncture. A test with a needle to see if cancer cells are found in the fluid around the brain and spinal cord (back).

Stem Cell Donor - a person who donated stem cells.

Stem Cell Transplant - is used when the chemotherapy has destroyed the good stem cells in bone marrow. Another person (stem cell donor) will donate these cells.

Stages -

- Stage 1 - often means the cancer has not spread to other parts of the body
- Stage 2 - often means the cancer has spread a little bit beyond the tumor.
- Stage 3 - often means the tumor is large
- Stage 4 often means that the cancer has spread to distant parts of the body

Surgeon - A doctor who specializes in operating on our bodies to fix something or to remove something like a tumor.

## T

Thrombocytopenia - low platelet count. A normal count is 150,000-300,000 cells.

Transplant - when a surgeon puts something from one person's body into the body of another person. Examples of things that are transplanted are cells and organs like a liver.

Tumor - A bunch of cancer cells that are all together. They can occur in bones, organs or other tissues in the body

## U

Ultra Sound - a test in which a gel is put on a part of the body and sound waves are used to put a picture on a monitor that the patient can see.

## V

Volunteers - People who work for free to help others feel better.

## W

White Blood Cells - fight infection.

Wilms Tumor - a cancerous tumor in the kidneys.



X-Ray - a picture that is taken of a body part to look inside it. This test uses radiation.

July 2010 (saved on Noogie laptop & company)