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Some cancers can't be cured but treatment is often able to control them for some years.

Many cancers are cured. But in some people, cancer can return.

Immune systems, and the hormone system.

Cancer and its treatments can affect body systems, such as blood circulation, lymphatic and immune systems, and the hormone system.

Cancer can sometimes spread to other parts of the body – this is called a secondary tumour or a metastasis.

Cancer can sometimes spread to other parts of the body – this is called a secondary tumour or a metastasis.

A primary tumour is the name for where a cancer starts.

Cancer starts when gene changes make one cell or a few cells begin to grow and multiply too much. This may cause a growth called a tumour.

Cancer is when abnormal cells divide in an uncontrolled way. Some cancers may eventually spread into other tissues.

Who can get Cancer?

Anyone can get cancer at any age, but the risk goes up with age. Nearly 9 out of 10 cancers are diagnosed in people ages 50 and older.

Cancer can be found in people of all racial and ethnic groups, but the rate of cancer occurrence (called the incidence rate) varies from group to group.

Is cancer genetic?

Most cancers start due to gene changes that happen over a person's lifetime. Sometimes cancers start due to inherited faulty genes, but this is rare.

- Only around 5 in every 100 cancers (around 5%) diagnosed are linked to an inherited faulty gene.
- Most cancers are not linked to inherited faulty genes.
- If you have an inherited faulty gene, it increases your risk of developing certain types of cancer.
- Some faulty genes increase the risk of more than one cancer type.
- Faulty BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes increase the risk of developing breast, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancer.

What is Cancer?

Information used in this booklet was provided by Healthworks Cancer champions
For more information visit:
www.healthworksnewcastle.org.uk



Healthworks
the community health charity

Types of cancer

Cancers are divided into groups according to the type of cell they start from. They include:

- **Carcinoma** – this cancer begins in the skin or in tissues that line or cover internal organs. There are different subtypes, including adenocarcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and transitional cell carcinoma
- **Sarcoma** – this cancer begins in the connective or supportive tissues such as bone, cartilage, fat, muscle or blood vessels
- **Leukaemia** – this is cancer of the white blood cells. It starts in the tissues that make blood cells such as the bone marrow.
- **Lymphoma and myeloma** – these cancers begin in the cells of the immune system
- **Brain and spinal cord cancers** – these are known as central nervous system cancers

Visit your GP if there is anything not normal for you!

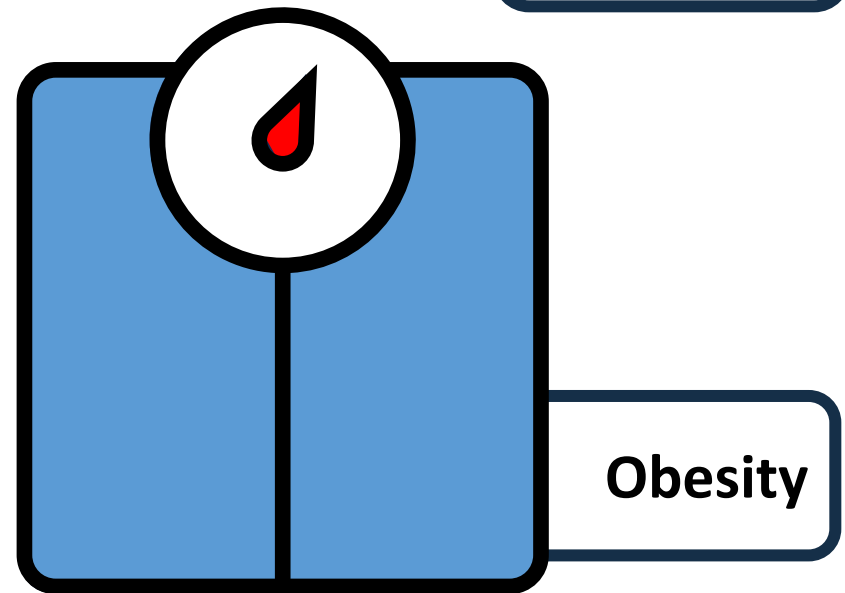
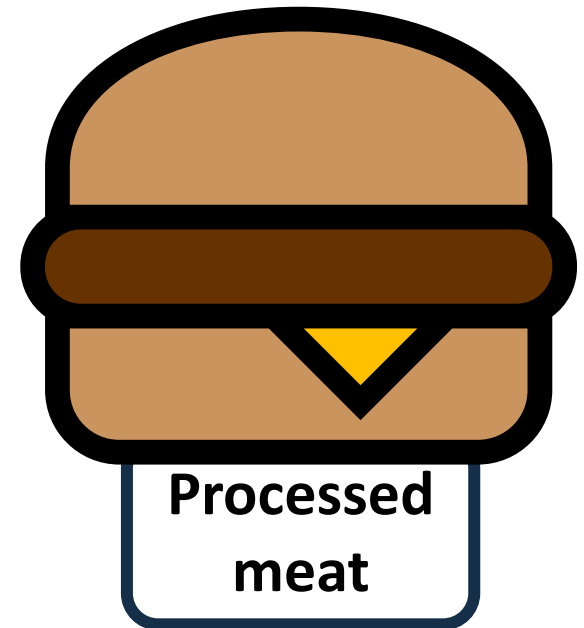
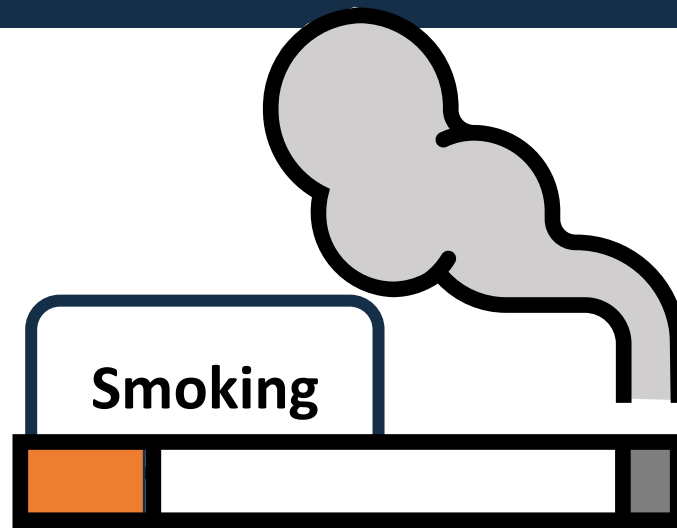
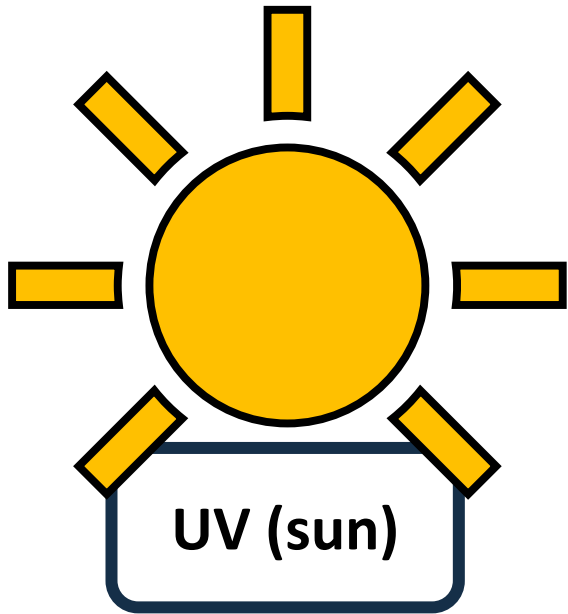


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Proven Risks of Cancer



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