Unit 11: Defining Cancer

Unit Objectives

- Define what ‘cancer’ is and important related terms
- Understand risk factors for cancer in general
- Understand detection and treatment for cancer in general
Defining cancer

- **Cancer**: A disease characterized by uncontrolled cellular growth and reproduction.

- There are over 200 'cancers.'

Defining Cancer

- **A tumor** is:
  - An abnormal growth of cells

- **A benign** tumor is:
  - A localized growth that does not spread

- **A malignant** tumor:
  - A growth that can spread to other tissues and organs
Risks for Cancer

- **Known Risks:**
  - Tobacco use
  - Certain infections
  - Exposure to radiation
  - Environmental pollutants
  - Dietary factors
  - Lack of physical activity
  - Obesity

- **Genetic Factors**
  - 5 - 10% of cancer
Cancer Detection and Treatment

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Class Wrap Up

- **Key Terms:**
  - Malignancy, Metastasis
- **Individual Health Importance:**
  - Genetics play an important role in cancer risk
- **Public Health Importance:**
  - More important are the lifestyle risks of cancer, which can be affected by public health prevention and education
- **Social/Political Importance:**
  - Cancer has a long history of being treated and researched