What Is Cancer?



Dr Anil Mohith Medical Oncologist











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Invasion and Metastasis Invasion and Metastasis

Microscopic Appearance of Cancer Cells













Examples of Dominantly Inherited Cancer Syndromes

Syndrome	Associated Gene
Familial retinoblastoma	RB1
LI-Fraumeni	TP53 (p53 protein)
Familial adenomatous polyposis	APC
Hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer	MLH1, MSH2, MSH6 PMS1, PMS2
Wilms' tumor	WT1
Breast and ovarian cancer	BRCA1, BRCA2
von Hippel-Lindau	VHL
Cowden	PTEN







p53 Tumor Suppressor Protein Triggers Cell Suicide



Normal cell

Excessive DNA damage

Cell suicide

Cell suicide (Apoptosis)

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Cancer Tends to Involve Multiple Mutations

Benign tumor cells Malignant cells invade grow only locally and neighboring tissues, enter cannot spread by blood vessels, and invasion or metastasis metastasize to different sites ¹⁰⁰070076007 Time • Cells Mutation **Mutations Proto-oncogenes** More mutations, more genetic instability, proliferate inactivate inactivates mutate to suppressor DNA repair oncogenes metastatic gene genes disease

Example: Translocation of *Bcr-Abl* Genes





