

In partnership with

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

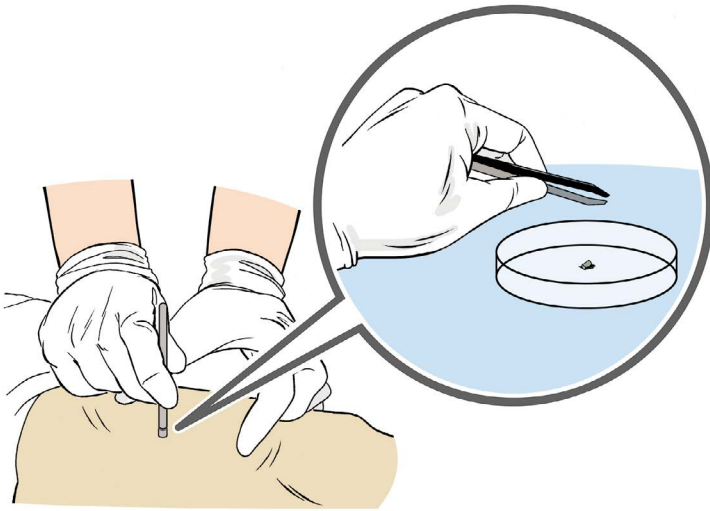
easy
read

Having a biopsy





About this easy read booklet



This booklet is about having a biopsy.



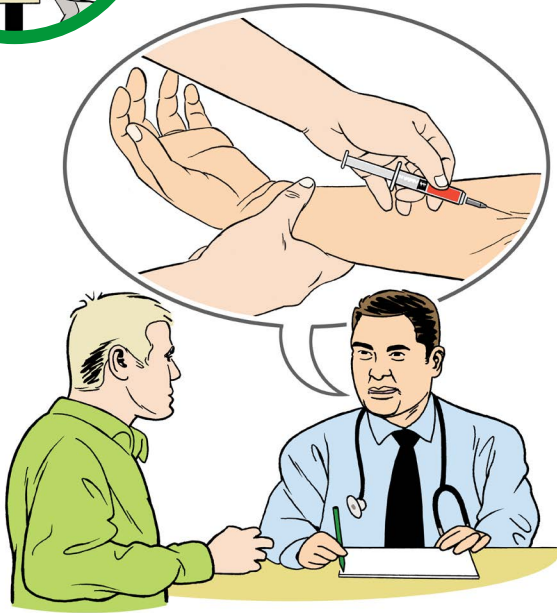
You can learn about what will happen at the hospital when you go in for a biopsy.



If you are worried about your health, you should talk to a doctor or nurse.



Having tests at the hospital



There are different tests that you may have at the hospital. Usually you will need more than one test to find out what is wrong.



Some tests can hurt your baby if you are pregnant. So it is very important to tell the doctor, nurse or the person who gives you support if you are pregnant.



Tell them if you think you might be pregnant, even if you're not sure.



Before you have a test you might want to ask the doctor or nurse to tell you what they are going to do.



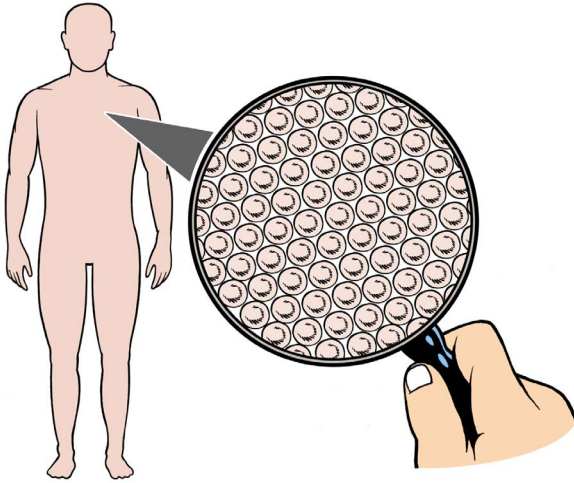
You may also want to visit the hospital with the person who gives you support before you go for the tests. Then you will know what it is like.



Tests can be uncomfortable but should not be painful. Tell the doctor or nurse if you have any pain.



Having a biopsy



A **biopsy** is a test that looks at **cells** from your body. Cells are the tiny building blocks that your body is made up of.



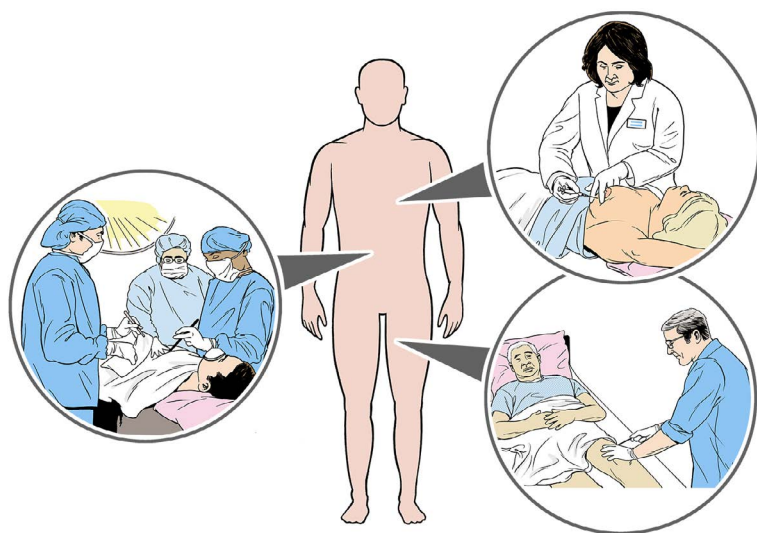
A doctor takes some cells from inside your body. Then they will look at them under a **microscope** to see them more clearly.



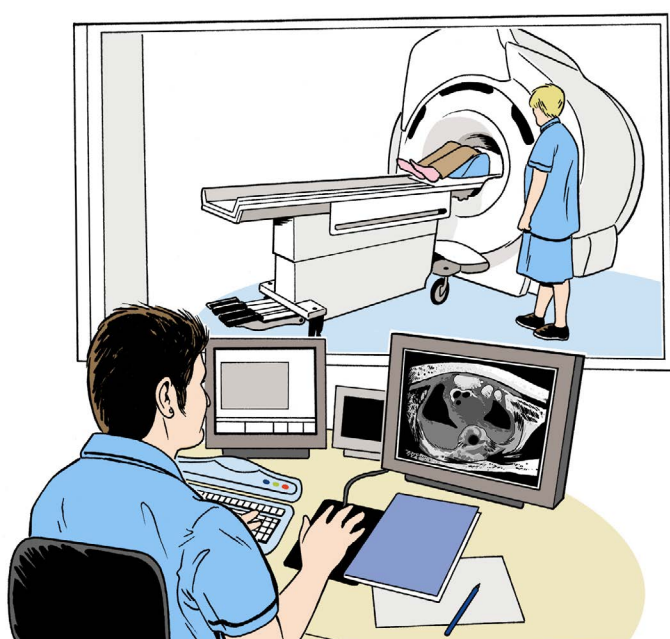
A **microscope** is what a doctor can use to look at very tiny things like cells. It makes the cells look a lot bigger so the doctor can see them.



Then they can see if there is any cancer. If you have cancer, looking at the cells helps the doctor decide which treatment would be best for you.



For a biopsy, cells can be taken from different parts of your body.



Sometimes an **x-ray** or a **scan** is used to help the doctor get a biopsy.

Scans and **x-rays** are ways of taking photos of the inside of the body.



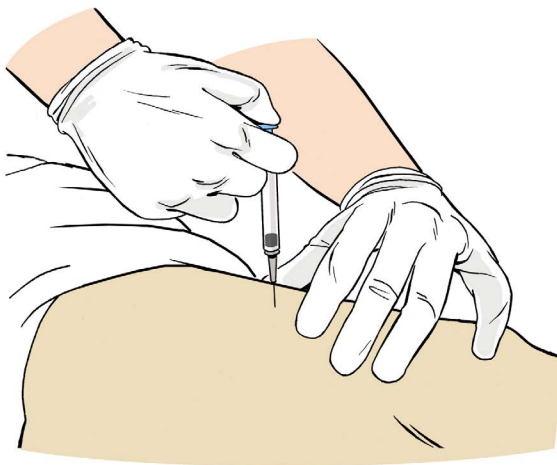
Skin or muscle biopsy



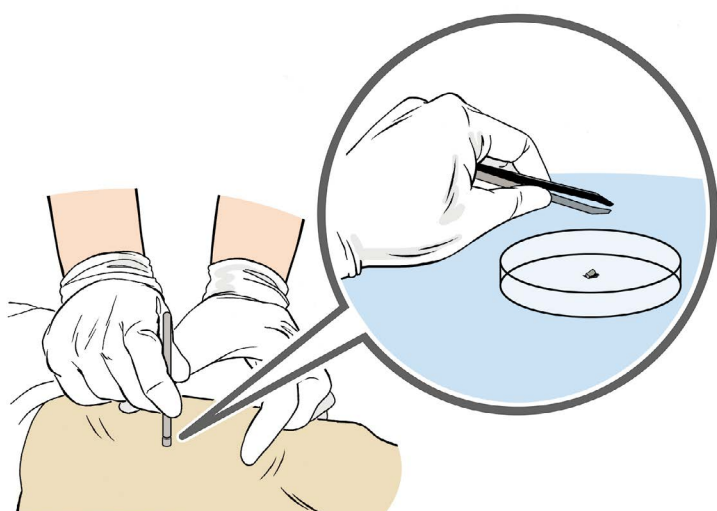
For a skin or muscle biopsy the doctor will take away a small piece of your skin or muscle. Then they will look at it closely.



Before the biopsy, the area of your skin where they will do the test is cleaned.



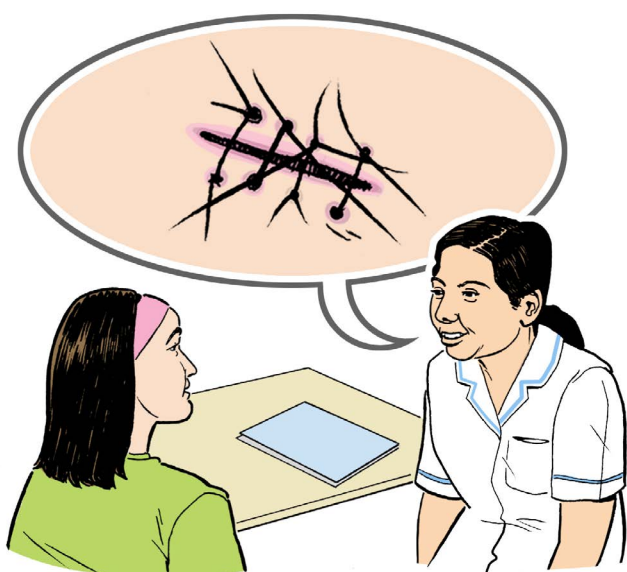
The nurse or doctor will then use some medicine to numb the area so that you can't feel any pain.



A small cut is made in your skin using a small sharp knife. Then the doctor will take some skin or muscle.



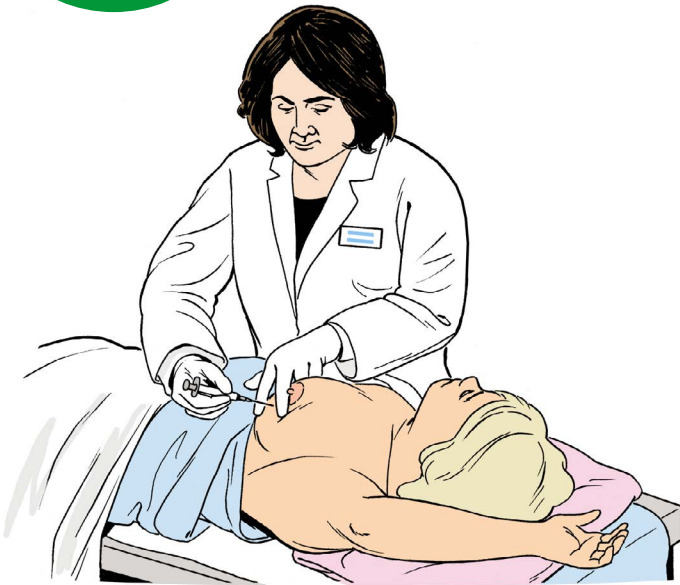
The cut is then closed by stitching it back together.



The nurse or doctor will tell you how to look after your cut or who may be able to help you with this.



Needle biopsy



In a needle biopsy, a needle is put into your skin. This is done to collect some cells from deeper inside your body. For example, from your kidney or your breast.



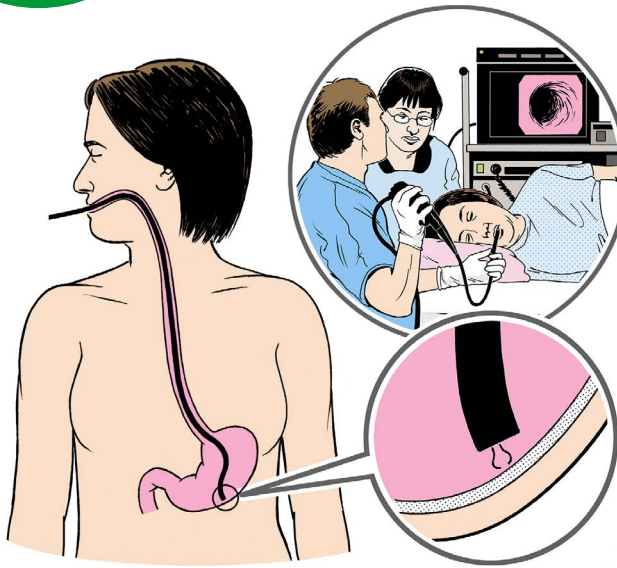
The doctor or nurse will use some medicine to numb the area of skin. This is so that you don't feel any pain.



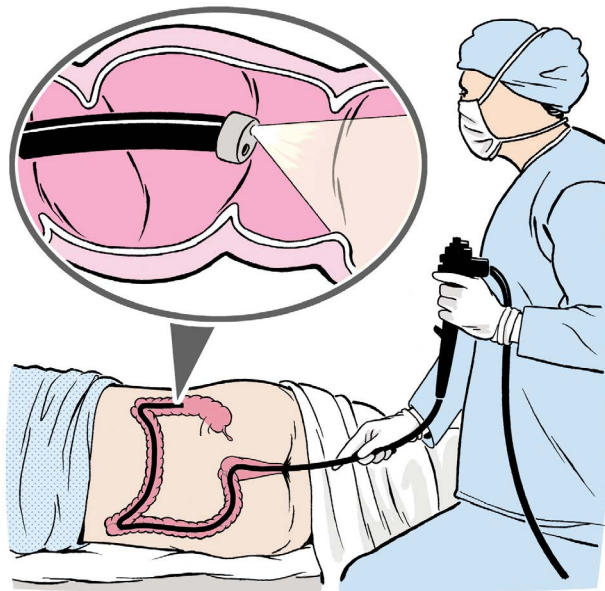
Later on it might feel sore and you may need to take some painkillers.



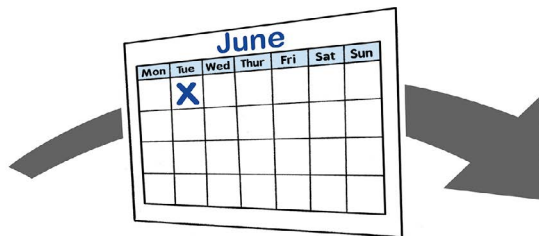
Biopsies during other tests



Some biopsies are taken from inside the body during other tests like an **endoscopy** or **colonoscopy**.



In an **endoscopy** and **colonoscopy** a doctor uses a long bendy tube with a tiny camera and light on the end to look inside your body. The tube is placed down your throat or up your bottom.



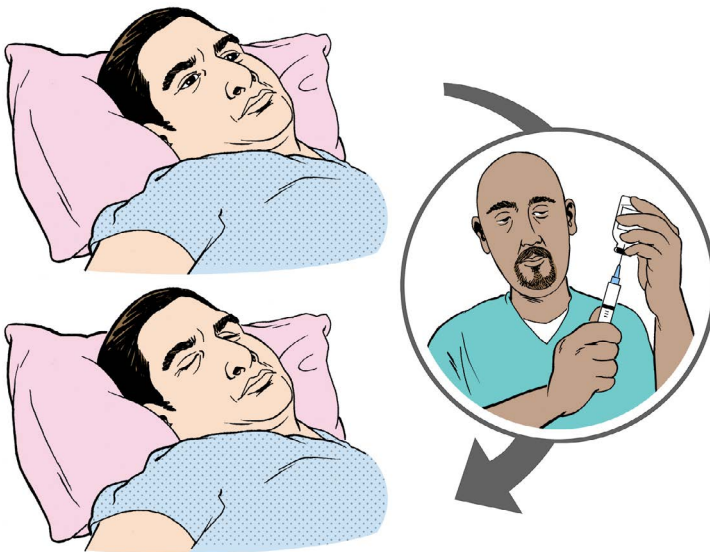
You can have these tests as an outpatient. This means you can go home afterwards. You won't have to stay in hospital overnight.



Open biopsy



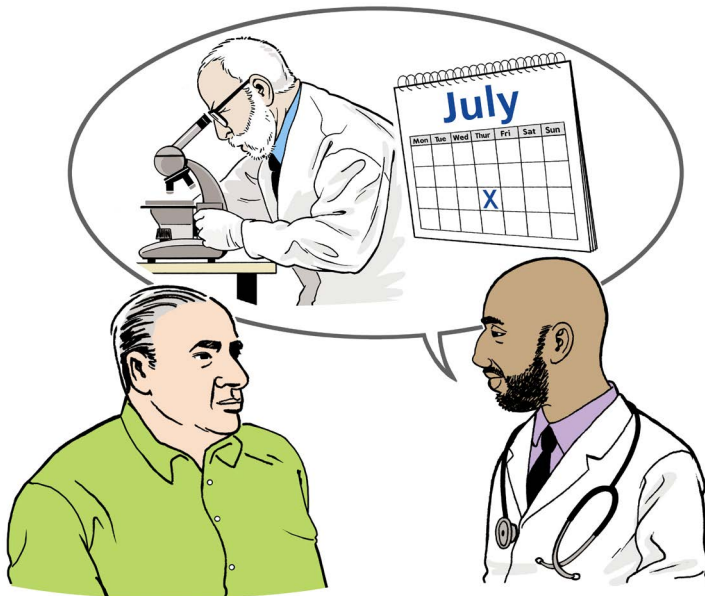
An open biopsy is done when a doctor opens up a part of your body to collect some cells.



This means you will have an operation. You will need to have something called a **general anaesthetic**. This is medicine that puts you to sleep for a short time so you don't feel any pain during the operation.



You will need to stay in hospital overnight.



It can take some time to get the results of your biopsy. It may take from 2 days to 3 weeks. Your doctor will tell you how long you may have to wait.



It can be worrying to wait for the results of medical tests. It may help to have someone to talk to while you are waiting. They can also support you when you get the results.

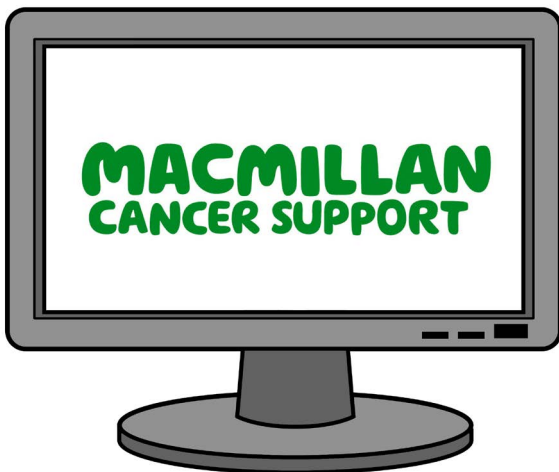


How Macmillan can help you

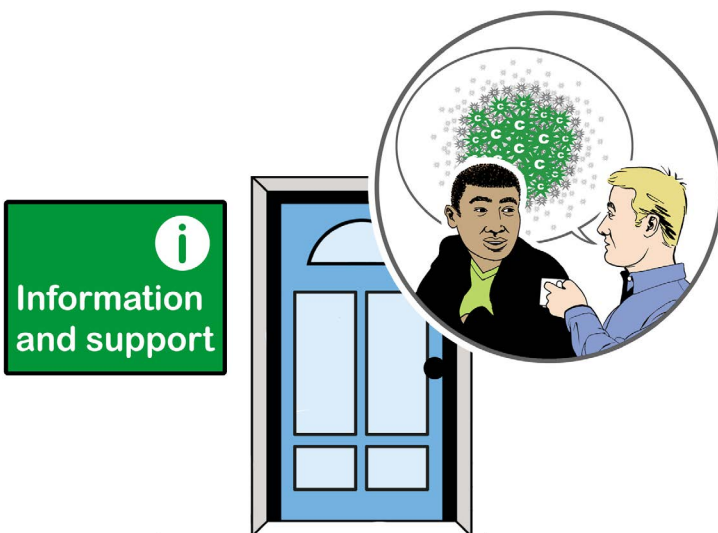


You can get support from:

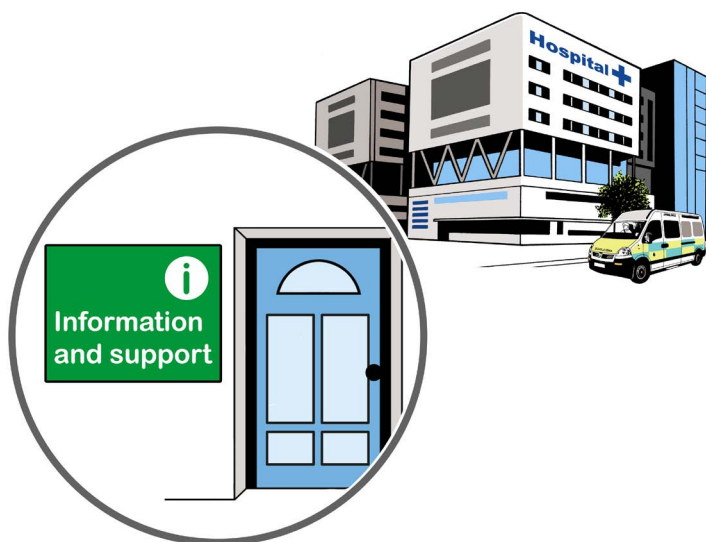
- The Macmillan Support Line.
Call **0808 808 00 00** 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm.



- The Macmillan website. Visit [macmillan.org.uk](https://www.macmillan.org.uk) for lots of information about cancer and living with cancer.



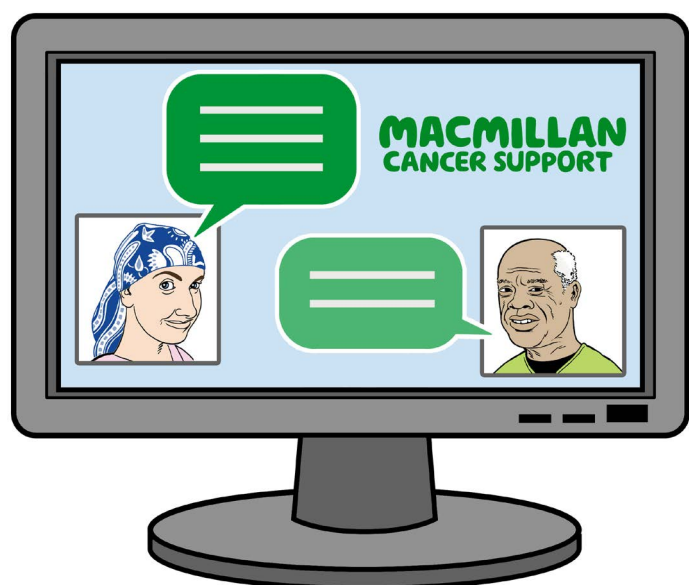
- Information centres. At an information centre, you can talk to a cancer support specialist and get written information.



Find your nearest centre at macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres or call us. Your hospital might have a centre.



- Local support groups. Find a group near you at macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups or call us.



- The Macmillan Online Community. You can talk to other people in similar situations at macmillan.org.uk/community



More easy read booklets



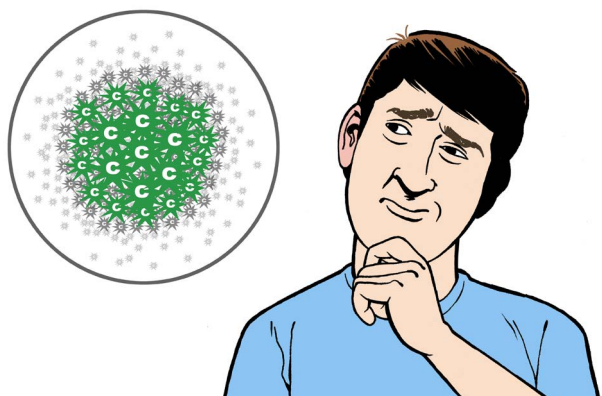
Order more easy read booklets from macmillan.org.uk/easyread

There are booklets on lots of topics:



About Macmillan

- How Macmillan Cancer Support can help you



About cancer

- Lung cancer
- What is cancer?



Signs and symptoms

- Breast care for women
- Cervical screening
- How to check your balls [testicles]
- Screening for cancer
- Signs of cancer
- Symptoms of cervical cancer
- Symptoms of prostate cancer



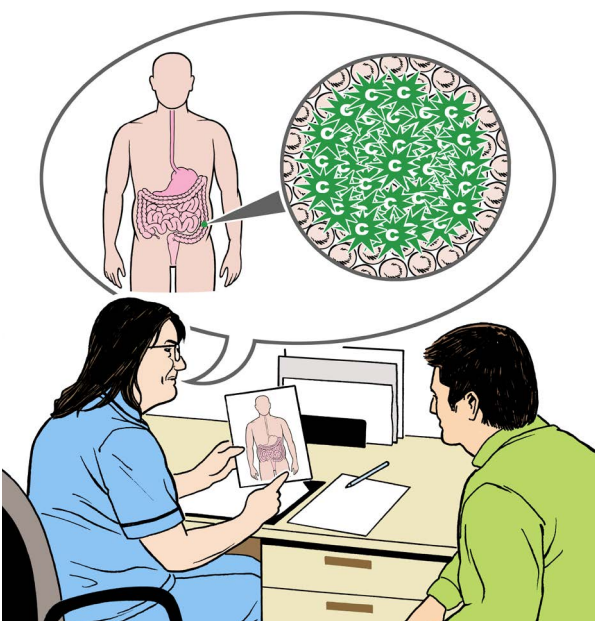
Living a healthy life

- Be safe in the sun
- Drink less alcohol
- Eat a healthy diet
- Exercise
- Have safe sex
- Stop smoking



Tests for cancer

- Having a biopsy
- Having a colonoscopy
- Having a CT scan
- Having an endoscopy
- Having examinations and blood tests
- Having an MRI scan
- Having an ultrasound
- Having an x-ray



Being told you have cancer

- Finding out you have cancer
- Getting your test results
- Seeing the doctor



Treatment for cancer

- Chemotherapy
- Giving your consent
- Having surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Side effects from chemotherapy
- Side effects from radiotherapy
- Treatments for prostate cancer



Living with cancer

- 7 steps to equal healthcare
- After treatment for cancer
- Claiming benefits when you have cancer
- Complementary therapies
- Talking about cancer and your feelings
- Things that are important to me
- Work and cancer
- Your feelings and cancer
- Your sex life and cancer
- Your social life and cancer



End of life

- Changes that can happen at the end of life
- Choosing where to die
- Getting ready to die
- If you are dying from cancer
- Making decisions about the future if you are dying
- Spirituality and religion at the end of life
- The end of life
- Thinking about your funeral
- Who can help if you are dying



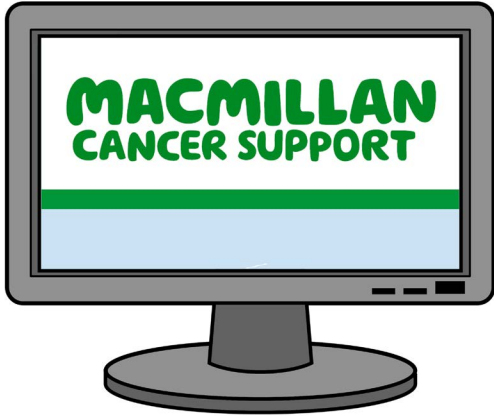
After someone dies

- Going to a funeral when someone dies
- Grief and loss when someone dies
- How you may feel when someone dies
- What can help you feel better when someone dies

To order easy read booklets like this one go to the website
macmillan.org.uk/easyread or call us on **0808 808 00 00**

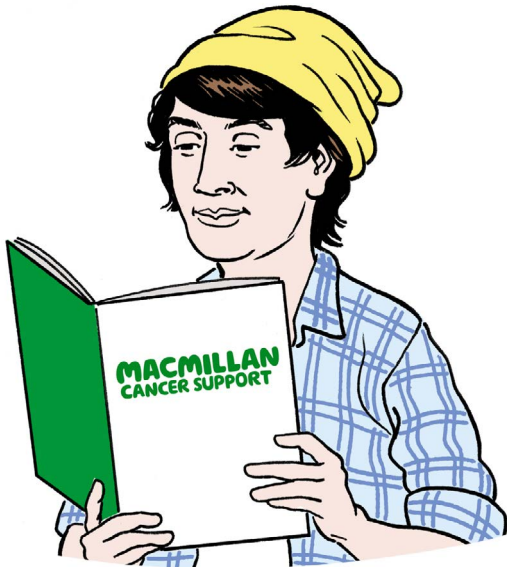


More information and resources



Macmillan website

There is lots of information about cancer at macmillan.org.uk



Booklets about cancer

You can order booklets about cancer from be.macmillan.org.uk



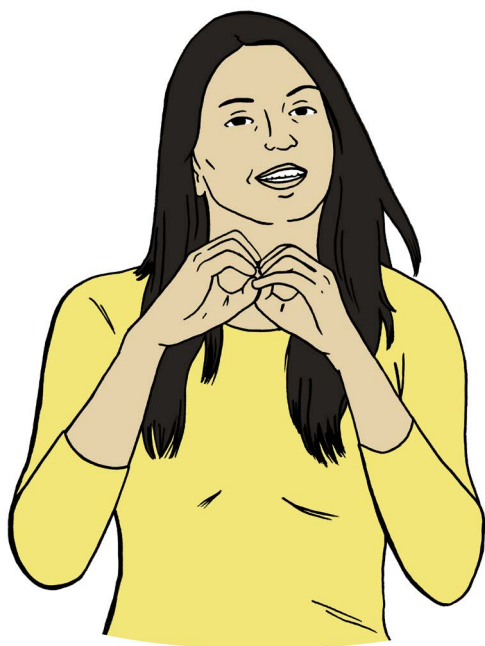
Videos

You can watch videos about cancer at macmillan.org.uk/videos



Audio

You can listen to information about cancer and order CDs from macmillan.org.uk/audio



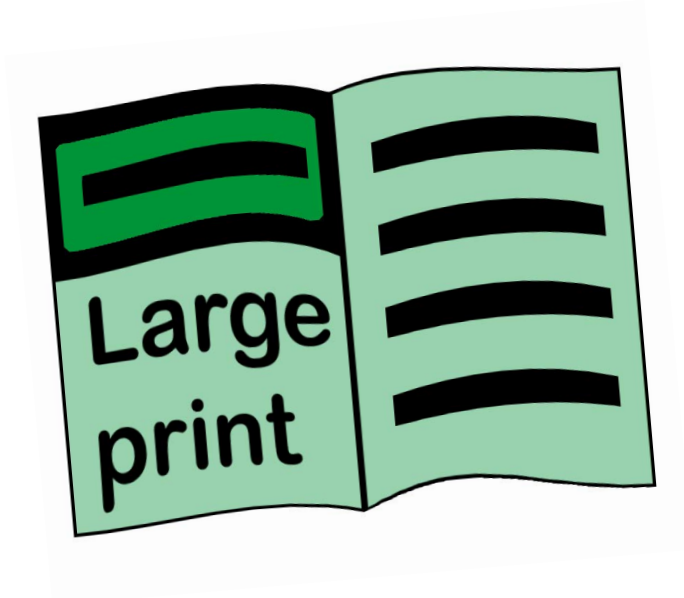
British Sign Language (BSL)

You can watch information in BSL at macmillan.org.uk/bsl



eBooks

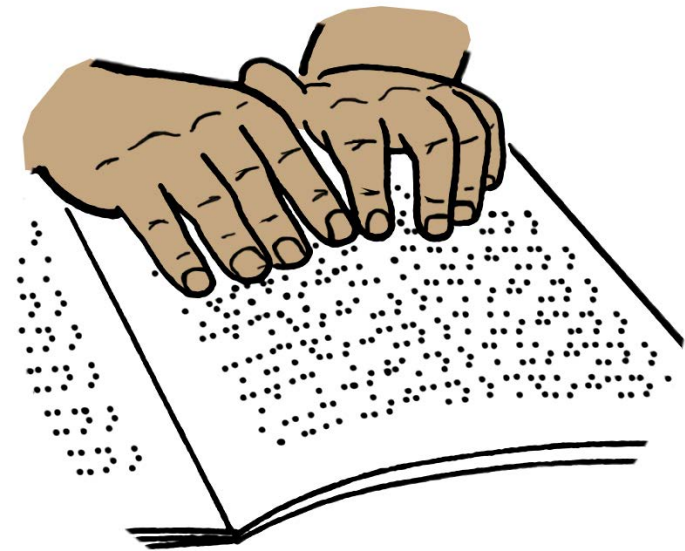
You can get eBooks about cancer from be.macmillan.org.uk



Large print

Tell us if you need information in large print.

Email: cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk



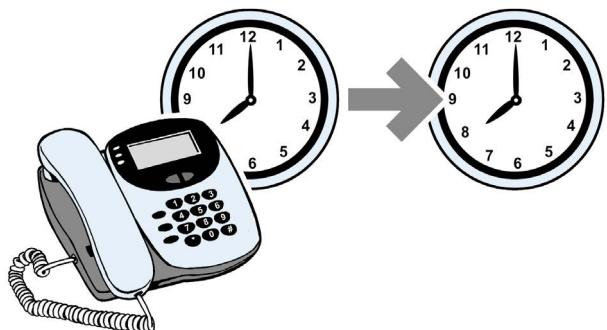
Braille

Tell us if you need information in Braille.

Email: cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk

This booklet is about cancer.

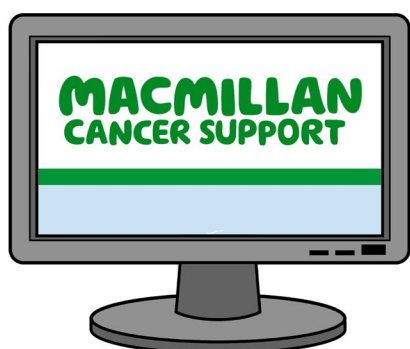
It is for anyone who has a learning disability or who finds easier words and pictures helpful. If you have more questions about cancer or would like to talk to us, call the Macmillan Support Line.



- Call us free on:
0808 808 00 00
7 days a week from 8am to 8pm.



- If you use a textphone, you can call the Macmillan Support Line using the Next Generation Text (NGT) service by dialling
18001 0808 808 00 00



- Or go to the website
macmillan.org.uk

This easy read booklet has been produced by Macmillan Cancer Support working with CHANGE.

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