 UNDERSTANDING CANCER

Ngaahi fehuʻi te ke ngali fakaʻamu ke ʻeke
Questions you may wish to ask

Ko ha tūhulu maʻaʻ e kakai ʻoku maʻu ʻe he kanisaaʻ
A guide for people with cancer
Introduction

Cancer is a disease of the body’s cells. Our bodies are always making new cells to replace worn-out cells, or to heal damaged cells after injury. This process is controlled by certain genes: the codes that tell our cells how to heal and behave. Cancers are caused by damage to these genes. This damage usually happens during our lifetime, although a small number of people inherit a damaged gene from a parent when they are born. If genes are damaged they can behave abnormally. They may grow into a tumour (lump) which may be benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer).

Benign tumours do not spread to other areas of the body whereas cancer has the ability to spread.

Cancer is not catching. It cannot be passed from one person to another.

There are many ways of treating cancer such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Talk to your doctor about what is best for you. Many cancers can be successfully treated.
When you hear you have cancer you and your family may feel understandably frightened and you may have many questions. Having your questions answered can help you feel in control of your situation. Here is a list of questions to help you make the most of your time with your doctor.

1. Ko e hā’a e hingoa ‘o e kanisā ‘oku ou ma‘u?
   What is the name of my cancer?

2. Ko e fē’a e feitu‘u ‘i hoku sino ‘oku ‘i ai’a e kanisaa?
   Where is it in my body?
3 ‘Okuanga fēfē ‘a hono uesia ‘e he kanisaa’ hoku sino?
   How is the cancer affecting my body?

4 Ko e hā ‘a e ngaahi sivi ‘oku ou fiema’u?
   What tests do I need?

5 Teu ‘ilo fakakū ‘a e ola ‘o hoku sivi?
   When will I know the results?

6 Ko e hā ‘a e me’a ‘e ‘asi mai ‘i he sivi?
   What will the tests tell us?

7 Ko e hā ‘a e ngaahi faito’o ‘oku ala ‘atā ke fai?
   What treatments are available?

8 Ko e hā ‘a e taumu’a ‘o e faito’o?
   What is the aim of the treatment?
9 Ko e hā hano faka-‘avalisi ‘e ngāue ‘a e faite‘o?
What is the probability of it working?

10 ‘Oku ‘i ai nai ha faite‘o faka-kiniki ‘ahi‘ahi ‘e lava keu kau atu ki ai?
Is there a clinical trial I can join?

11 ‘Oku fiema‘u nai ke fai haku faite‘o ‘i he falemahaki?
Will I have to have treatment in hospital?

12 ‘Oku anga féfélé na‘ate vakai‘i pe ‘oku ngāue nai ‘a e faite‘o pe ‘ikai?
How do you check treatment is working?

13 Kapau ‘e ‘ikai ke ngāue ‘a e faite‘o, ko e hā leva ‘a e palani?
If treatment is not working what is the plan?
14 'Oku 'i ai nai ha ngaahi fakatamaki kehe 'e ala hoko?
Are there any side-effects?

15 'Oku flema'u nai ke u muimui ki ha founga ma'u
me'atokoni makehe?
Should I follow a special diet?

17 'E lava ke u ngāue?
Can I work?

18 'E uesia nai 'e he faito'o 'a 'eku mohe mo hoku hoa?
Will the treatment affect my sex life?

16 'E uesia nai 'e he faito'o 'a e malava ke u ma'u fānau?
Will treatment affect my fertility?
Can I exercise?  

Can I travel?  

Where can I go for support?  

Will I have to pay for anything?  

What will happen if my cancer can not be controlled?
Ki ha ngaahi fakamatala ki he kanisaa´ pe a mo ha ngaahi poupou, telefoni ki he fika 0800 CANCER (226 237) pe vakai ki he uepisaiti: www.cancernz.org.nz

For cancer information and support phone 0800 CANCER (226 237) or go to www.cancernz.org.nz

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- Korean
- Maori
- Niuean
- Samoan
- Tongan

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