# **AMERICAN CANCER HOSPITAL - NIGERIA**

Ikeduru Hospital, Owerri-Okigwe Road, Iho, Ikeduru, Imo State, Nigeria.



# Can Cancer Be Cured?

- Many cancers if treated at the right time can 'disappear' and go into remission.
- Many cancers if treated at the right time and if treated in the right manner can be cured.
- Many cancers if caught early on and treated right can significantly improve the final outcome
- The cancers with the highest 5-year relative survival rates include breast, prostate, testicular, cervical, melanoma, Hodgkin lymphoma, and thyroid cancer.



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Tel: +234 (703) 4670640; +234 (814) 4102784; +234 (706) 4471111 www.americancancercenternigeria.com OPEN 24 HOURS: ACCIDENT EMERGENCY; LAB SERVICES, IMAGING SERVICES & PHARMACY

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Cancer is a disease that causes cells to grow and multiply uncontrollably in certain parts of the body. It may start in one part of the body and then spread to other areas. As a result, cancer can have a severe impact on the surrounding tissues and organs.

Successful treatment may remove all signs of cancer from a person's body. Doctors describe this as being in remission. However, cancer can return after remission, sometimes many years later. Curing cancer would mean completely eradicating the condition without it coming back. Although this can happen for some people, cancer can always appear unannounced. Hence everyone should be on a constant vigil and have regular checkups and be conscious that this deadly enemy can make surprise attacks. Most often there are tell-tale signs and it is always best to 'listen to your body'.

Many factors influence the likelihood of successful cancer treatment, including the type of cancer. To understand the difference in outlook between cancer types, researchers often use a statistic called the 5-year survival rate. This figure refers to the percentage of people who survive for 5 years after the diagnosis of cancer.

The 5-year survival rate does not indicate whether or not treatment has removed all signs of cancer, but it is useful for comparing the relative severity of different types of cancer. It is important to remember that many other factors influence survival, such as how early the doctors detect the disease.

To provide a more accurate estimate of the outlook for cancer, doctors can also refer to 5year relative survival rates. Relative survival rates compare people with a specific disease to those in the general population without the disease. They take into account the fact that other factors can impact on survival. These survival rates are primarily for cancers that doctors have diagnosed at an early stage.

#### **Breast cancer**



People with stage 0 or 1 breast cancer have a high survival rate. The 5-year relative survival rate for stage 0 and 1 breast cancer is 99– 100 percent. Therefore, people with this stage and type of cancer are almost 100 percent as likely to survive for at least

5 years as people without the condition. The stages describe the size and location of the tumor. Stage 0 refers to the growth of abnormal cells in the breast tissue or lobules within the breast. At this stage, doctors do not consider it to be cancerous, but it can indicate very early signs of cancer. In stage 1 breast cancer, tiny tumors are present that: are typically less than 2 centimeters (cm) in size have not spread to a different area of the body Doctors can isolate and treat these types of breast cancer before they develop into more severe forms of cancer.

## **Cervical cancer**

Cervical cancer has a 93 percent 5-year relative survival rate at stages 0 and 1A. Early detection allows doctors to treat the abnormally developed cells before they can grow or spread to other areas of the body. Even at the later stages of cervical cancer, the cancerous cells grow at a very slow rate. As a result, treatment can still be effective.

#### Prostate & Testicular cancer



Prostate cancers have a 99 percent 5year relative survival rate at stages 1 and 2. Prostate cancers either grow very slowly or do not

grow at all, and they are very treatable. Prostate cancers that are not increasing in size may not require treatment if doctors do not consider them to be harmful.

The 5-year relative survival rate for testicular cancer is 99 percent for localized tumors which are in the testicles, and 96 percent for regional tumors, which have spread to tissues or lymph nodes close to the testicles. In the early stages of testicular cancer, doctors can remove either one or both of the testicles to treat the condition. Testicle removal is an effective form of treatment. However, it is significantly less beneficial when cancer has spread.

### **Thyroid cancer**



Thyroid cancer has a 5-year relative survival rate of 98–100 percent at stages 1 and 2. The thyroid is a gland in the neck that produces hormones to support healthy bodily functions. Most thyroid cancers grow slowly, which allows more time for treatment to take place. Even when cancer spreads into surrounding tissues in the throat, removing the thyroid gland can be an effective method of eradicating it.

#### Melanoma

Early detection and treatment of melanoma increase a person's survival rate. Melanoma has a 5-year relative survival rate of around 92 and 97 percent at stages 1A and 1B respectively. Melanoma is a cancer of the skin, and it has a high survival rate because it is visibly easy to detect. It is often possible to identify and treat melanoma in the early stages of its progression, which increases a person's chance of survival. However, without early detection, melanoma can spread beneath the surface of the skin and become more difficult to remove or treat.

## Hodgkin lymphoma

Hodgkin lymphoma has a 5-year relative survival rate of around 90 percent at stages 1 and 2. The high relative survival rate of Hodgkin lymphoma is due to it responding well to radiation treatment. This means that the survival rate remains high for people who have more advanced forms of this cancer.

Treatment at American Cancer Hospital include a host of modalities including Radiation, Surgery, Chemotherapy, Hormone and Target Therapy.



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