

Canser y coluddyd

Mae'r wybodaeth hon ynghylch canser y coluddyd a thriniaethau ar gyfer canser y coluddyd.

Ceir esboniad o'r geiriau sydd wedi eu tanlinellu yn y rhestr geiriau ar y diwedd.

Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau, gallwch holi'ch meddyg neu nyrs yn yr ysbyty lle byddwch yn cael eich triniaeth.

Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau neu os ydych eisiau siarad â rhywun, gallwch ffonio Cymorth Canser Macmillan ar **0808 808 00 00**, o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener, 9am i 8pm. Mae gennym gyfieithwyr, felly gallwch siarad gyda ni yn eich iaith eich hun. Dywedwch wrthym, yn Saesneg, yr iaith rydych am ei defnyddio.

Mae gennym ragor o wybodaeth yn Gymraeg am wahanol ganserau, triniaethau a byw gyda chanser.

Ewch i macmillan.org.uk/translations neu ein ffonio ar **0808 808 00 00**.

Yn y daflen ffeithiau hon:

- Y coluddyd
- Canser y coluddyd
- Sut caiff triniaeth ei chynllunio
- Siarad â'ch tîm gofal iechyd
- Cwestiynau i'w gofyn am eich triniaeth
- Triniaethau ar gyfer canser y coluddyd
- Sgîl-effeithiau posibl eich triniaeth
- Dilyniant
- Eich teimladau
- Sut y gall Macmillan helpu
- Rhestr geiriau
- Mwy o wybodaeth yn Gymraeg

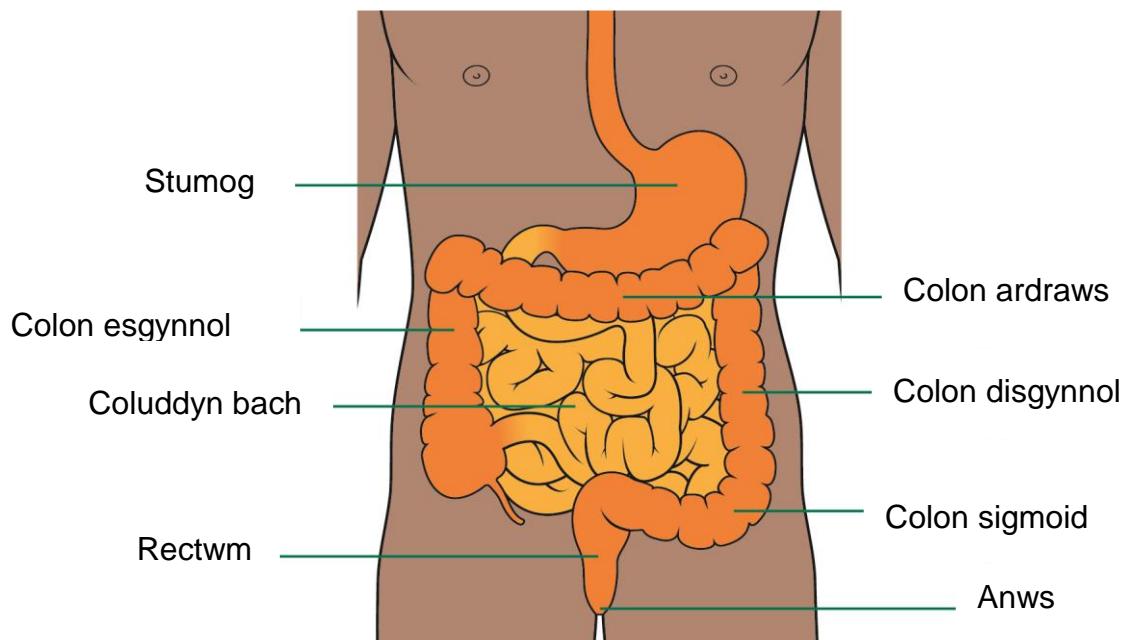
Y coluddyн

Mae'r coluddyн yn rhan o'r system dreulio, sy'n torri bwyd i lawr a'i amsugno fel gall y corff ei ddefnyddio. Mae dwy ran iddo, y coluddyн bach a'r coluddyн mawr.

Mae gwahanol rannau i'r coluddyн mawr. Sef:

- y colon
- y rectwm
- yr anws.

Y coluddyн



Canser y coluddyн

Gall canser effeithio ar wahanol rannau o'r coluddyн. Y ddau brif fath o ganser y coluddyн yw:

- canser y colon
- canser y rectwm.

Gelwir canser y coluddyн mawr yn ganser colorefrol hefyd. Mae canser y coluddyн bach a chanser yr anws yn brin. Mae gennym wybodaeth am y canserau hyn yn Saesneg. Mae pob rhan o'r corff wedi'i wneud o gelloedd bach. Mae canser y coluddyн yn digwydd pan fo'r celloedd yn y coluddyн yn tyfu'n afreolus ac yn ffurfio lwm a elwir yn diwmor. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o ganserau'r coluddyн yn dechrau yn leinin y coluddyн.

Weithiau mae celloedd canser yn lledaenu i rannau eraill o'r corff trwy'r gwaed a'r system lymffatig. Gelwir hyn yn ganser eilaidd.

Nid yw canser y coluddyн yn heintus ac ni ellir ei basio i bobl eraill.

Camau a graddau canser y coluddyd

- Mae cam y canser yn golygu pa mor fawr ydyw ac os yw wedi lledaenu.
- Gradd y canser yw pa mor gyflym y gallai'r canser dyfu.

Sut caiff triniaeth ei chynllunio

Bydd eich tîm gofal iechyd yn cyfarfod i gynllunio'r driniaeth orau i chi. Bydd eich meddyg neu nyrs yn siarad â chi am y cynllun hwn. Bydd eich triniaeth yn dibynnu ar ffactorau, megis:

- cam a gradd y canser
- eich iechyd cyffredinol
- manteision triniaeth a sgîl-effeithiau posibl
- yr hyn yr ydych yn ei feddwl am y triniaethau sydd ar gael.

Siarad â'ch tîm gofal iechyd

Mae'n bwysig eich bod yn trafod unrhyw driniaeth â'ch meddyg, i wneud yn siŵr eich bod yn deall beth mae'n ei olygu. Ar ôl siarad gyda chi, bydd eich meddyg yn gofyn i chi lofnodi ffurflen gydsynio i ddangos eich bod yn deall ac yn cytuno i gael y driniaeth. Gelwir hyn yn rhoi caniatâd. Ni fyddwch yn cael unrhyw driniaeth oni bai eich bod wedi cytuno i'w chael.

Mae'n syniad da mynd â rhywun gyda chi sy'n gallu siarad Cymraeg a Saesneg. Neu gall yr ysbtyt drefnu cyfieithydd ar eich cyfer. Rhowch wybod i'ch nyrs os ydych angen un.

Cwestiynau i'w gofyn am eich triniaeth

- Beth mae fy niagnosis yn ei olygu?
- Beth yw cam a gradd y canser?
- Pa driniaethau sydd ar gael?
- Beth yw manteision, risgiau a sgîl-effeithiau pob triniaeth?
- Sut fydd y driniaeth yn effeithio ar fy mywyd dyddiol?
- Gyda phwy allaf i siarad am sut ydw i'n teimlo?

Mae gennym fwy o wybodaeth yn eich iaith ynghylch cael diagnosis o ganser.

Triniaethau ar gyfer canser y coluddyn

Mae'r triniaethau ar gyfer canser y coluddyn yn cynnwys:

- llawdriniaeth (llawfeddygaeth)
- cyffuriau cemotherapi neu therapi targedig
- radiotherapi

Mae llawer o bobl yn cael mwy nag un math o driniaeth, megis llawdriniaeth ac yna cemotherapi neu radiotherapi. Gall fod gwahanol fathau o driniaeth ar gyfer canser y colon neu ganser y rectwm.

Llawdriniaeth

Llawdriniaeth (llawfeddygaeth) i dynnu'r canser yw'r driniaeth fwyaf cyffredin ar gyfer canser y coluddyn.

Weithiau gellir tynnu canserau'r coluddyn yn eu camau cynnar iawn gyda llawdriniaeth fach a elwir yn echdoriad lleol. Mae'r meddyg yn tynnu'r canser gan ddefnyddio cyfarpar llawfeddygol arbennig sy'n cael eu pasio trwy'r anws.

Bydd y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn cael llawdriniaeth i dynnu rhan o'r coluddyn. Fel arfer bydd y meddyg hefyd yn tynnu ychydig o nodau lymff o wrth ymyl y canser. Yn aml y nodau lymff yw ble mae'r canser yn lledaenu iddo gyntaf.

Efallai y cewch lawdriniaeth fel:

- llawfeddygaeth agored
- llawfeddygaeth twll clo (laparosgopaidd).

Mae llawfeddygaeth agored yn golygu bod y llawfeddyg yn gwneud toriad mawr cyn tynnu'r canser. Yn ystod llawfeddygaeth twll clo, mae'r llawfeddyg yn gwneud 4 neu 5 toriad bach. Maent yn rhoi cyfarpar llawfeddygol drwy'r toriadau i dynnu'r canser. Fel arfer byddwch yn gwella'n gynt ar ôl llawfeddygaeth twll clo nag ar ôl llawfeddygaeth agored.

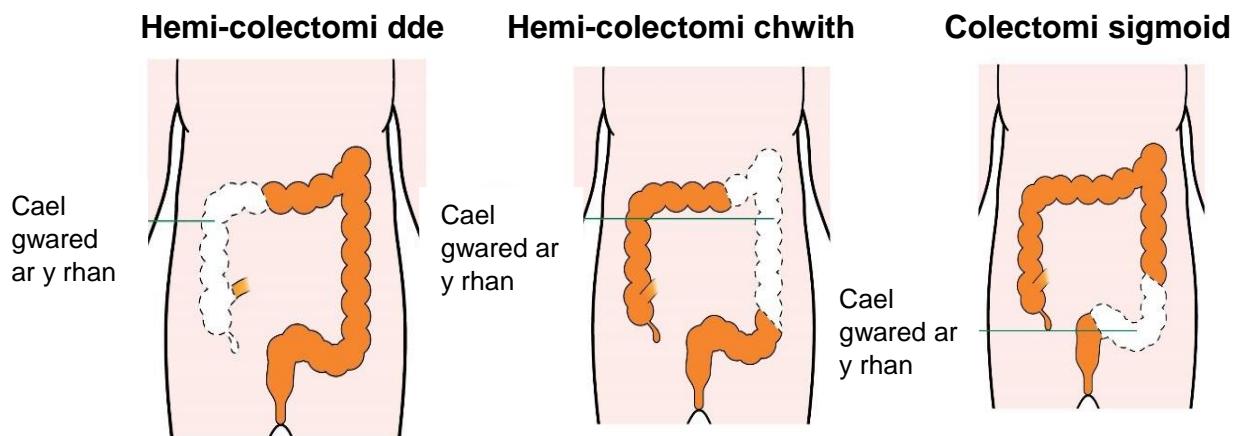
Llawfeddyg yn gwneud llawfeddygaeth twll clo (laparosgopaidd)



Mathau o lawdriniaeth ar gyfer canser y colon

- **Hemi-colectomi** – tynnu hanner y colon. Gellir naill ai tynnu'r ochr chwith neu'r ochr dde, yn dibynnu ar ble mae'r canser.
- **Colectomi sigmoid** – tynnu'r colon sigmoid.

Ar ôl tynnu'r rhan o'r coluddyn ble mae'r canser, mae'r llawfeddyg yn uno dau ben y coluddyn gyda'i gilydd.



Yn anaml iawn, bydd angen tynnu'r colon i gyd. Gelwir hyn yn colectomi cyflawn. Bydd eich meddyg yn dweud mwy wrthych am hyn os byddwch angen y math yma o lawdriniaeth.

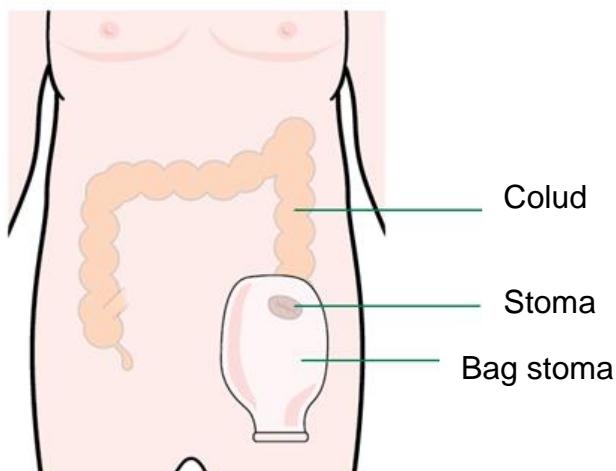
Stomas

Os na ellir uno dau ben y coluddyn, gellir dod â rhan o'r coluddyn allan ar y bol (abdomen). Gelwir yr agoriad hwn yn stoma.

- Os gwneir y stoma o'r colon fe'i gelwir yn golostomi.
- Os gwneir y stoma o'r coluddyn bach (ilewm) fe'i gelwir yn ileostomi.

Rydych yn gwisgo bag arbennig dros y stoma i gasglu'r pw.

Stoma a bag stoma

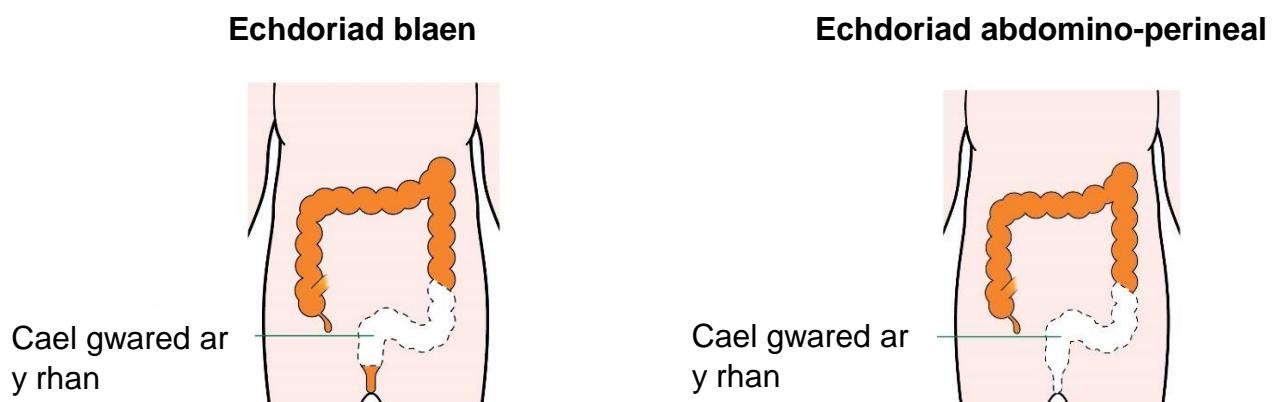


Efallai mai dim ond am gyfnod byr ar ôl llawdriniaeth y bydd gennych hwn, er mwyn caniatáu'r coluddyn i wella. Ond weithiau gall fod yn barhaol. Bydd nrys stoma yn dangos i chi sut i ofalu am y stoma a rhoi mwy o gyngor a gwybodaeth i chi.

Mathau o lawdriniaeth ar gyfer canser y rectwm

Echdoriad blaen – mae'r meddyg yn tynnu'r rectwm cyfan gyda'r meinwe brasterog a'r nodau lymff o'i amgylch.

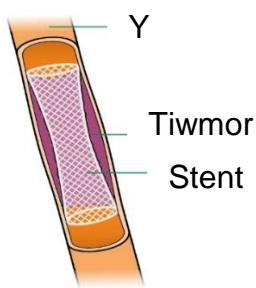
Echdoriad abdomino-perineal – defnyddir hyn gan amlaf ar gyfer canserau ger pen isaf y rectwm. Mae'r meddyg yn tynnu'r rectwm a'r anws. Ar ôl y llawdriniaeth hon bydd gennych stoma parhaol.



Mathau o lawdriniaeth ar gyfer canser y coluddyn sydd wedi lledaenu

Weithiau, mae canser y colon yn rhwystro'r coluddyn ac yn atal pŵ rhag pasio drwodd. Gall hyn achosi poen yn y bol a chwydu. Efallai bydd y meddyg yn gosod tiwb tenau (stent) yn y coluddyn i'w gadw'n agored. Os nad yw hyn yn bosibl, efallai byddant yn tynnu'r rhan o'r coluddyn sydd wedi'i rwystro gyda llawdriniaeth.

Rhan o'r coluddyn gyda stent yn ddo



Weithiau cewch lawfeddygaeth i dynnu'r canser sydd wedi lledaenu i rannau eraill o'r corff, megis yr iau neu'r ysgyfaint.

Mae gennym ragor o wybodaeth yn Gymraeg am lawfeddygaeth a rhai o'r sgîl-effeithiau y gallwch eu profi.

Cemotherapi

Cemotherapi mae hwn yn defnyddio cyffuriau gwrth ganser i ddinistrio celloedd canser. Fel arfer, nid ydych angen cemotherapi ar gyfer canser y coluddyn yn ei gamau cynnar.

Gellir rhoi cemotherapi:

- ar ôl llawfeddygaeth i leihau'r risg y daw'r canser yn ôl.
- cyn llawfeddygaeth ar gyfer canser sydd wedi lledaenu - gwneir hyn i leihau'r canser ac i leihau'r risg y daw'r canser yn ôl.
- fel y brif driniaeth ar gyfer canser sydd wedi lledaenu.

Gall cyffuriau cemotherapi achosi sgîl-effeithiau sy'n gwneud i chi deimlo'n wael. Gall gwahanol gyffuriau achosi gwahanol sgîl-effeithiau. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys:

- bod yn fwy tebygol o gael haint.
- teimlo'n flinedig
- teimlo'n sâl neu fod yn sâl
- ceg ddolurus
- colli gwalt.

Gall eich meddyg siarad â chi am y sgîl-effeithiau y gallech eu cael a sut i'w rheoli. Gellir rheoli'r rhan fwyaf o sgîl-effeithiau gyda chyffuriau. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o sgîl-effeithiau'n diflannu pan fydd y cemotherapi wedi dod i ben.

Mae gennym ragor o wybodaeth yn Gymraeg am gemotherapi a rhai o'r sgîl-effeithiau y gallwch eu profi.

Radiotherapi

Mae radiotherapi yn defnyddio pelydrau X ynni uchel i ddinistrio'r celloedd canser Fel arfer ni fydddech yn cael radiotherapi ar gyfer canser y colon ond mae'n driniaeth gyffredin ar gyfer canserau'r rectwm.

Efallai y cewch radiotherapi cyn llawdriniaeth ar gyfer canser y rectwm. Gellir ei roi i wneud y canser yn llai ac yn haws i'w dynnu. Mae radiotherapi hefyd yn gostwng y siawns y bydd canser y rectwm yn dod yn ôl. Byddwch yn cael y lawdriniaeth ychydig wythnosau ar ôl gorffen y radiotherapi.

Efallai y defnyddir radiotherapi ar ôl llawdriniaeth os oes siawns bod peth o'r canser dal ar ôl.

Os yw canser y rectwm wedi lledaenu neu ddychwelyd, efallai y cewch radiotherapi i'w wneud yn llai. Gall hefyd helpu gyda symptomau fel poen.

Mae gennym ragor o wybodaeth yn Gymraeg am radiotherapi a rhai o'r sgîl-effeithiau y gallwch eu profi.

Cemoymbelydredd

Os oes gennych ganser y rectwm, efallai byddwch yn cael cemotherapi a radiotherapi gyda'i gilydd.

Gelwir hyn yn gemoymbelydredd. Gall weithio'n well na chemothterapi neu radiotherapi ar ben ei hun ond gall y sgîl-effeithiau fod yn waeth.

Therapïau (biolegol) targedig

Mae therapïau targedig yn defnyddio'r gwahaniaeth rhwng celloedd canser a chelloedd normal i atal celloedd canser rhag tyfu. Efallai y cânt eu defnyddio i drin canserau'r coluddyn sydd wedi lledaenu.

Mae'r sgîl-effeithiau'n cynnwys:

- teimlo'n flinedig
- croen sych neu frech
- dolur rhydd
- symptomau ffliw

Gellir rheoli'r rhan fwyaf o sgîl-effeithiau gyda chyffuriau ac maent yn diflannu pan fydd y driniaeth wedi dod i ben.

Sgîl-effeithiau posibl eich triniaeth

Mae gennym fwy o wybodaeth yn eich iaith ynghylch sgîl-effeithiau cyffredin triniaeth canser. Gall ein gwybodaeth ynghylch blinder a phroblemau bwyta hefyd fod yn ddefnyddiol.

Isod mae rhai sgîl-effeithiau eraill y gallech eu cael yn ystod ac ar ôl triniaeth am ganser y coluddyn.

Newidiadau i'ch coluddyn

Ar ôl triniaeth, efallai bydd eich coluddyn yn gweithio'n wahanol am gyfnod. Efallai:

- bydd gennych y dolur rhydd
- byddwch angen pŵ yn fwy aml
- na fyddwch yn cael llawer o rybudd pan fyddwch angen pŵ
- bydd gennych ben ôl poenus.

Bydd y rhain fel arfer yn gwella ar ôl amser. Dywedwch wrth eich meddyg neu nyrs os yw'r sgîl-effeithiau hyn gennych neu os nad ydynt yn gwella. Gallant roi cyngor a meddyginaethau i'ch helpu.

Amddiffyn eich croen

Gall cael pŵ chwâl neu ddyfrllyd wneud y croen o amgylch eich pen ôl yn boenus.

Gallai'r awgrymiadau hyn helpu:

- Cadwch y croen o amgylch eich anws (pen ôl) yn lân a sych.
- Defnyddiwch gadachau gwlyb (wet wipes) di-bersawr gan eu bod yn feddalach ar eich croen na phapur toileted.
- Defnyddiwch eliau rhwystr i helpu amddiffyn eich croen – ond defnyddiwch eliau mae eich meddyg neu nyrs wedi eu hargymhell yn unig.
- Gwisgwch ddillad isaf cotwm i gadw'ch croen yn sych a lled oer.

Newidiadau diet

Weithiau bydd bwyd fel ffrwythau a llysiau yn gwneud eich pŵ yn chwaledig a gwneud i chi fynd i'r toileted yn fwy aml. Gall helpu i gadw dyddiadur o'r hyn rydych yn ei fwyta a sut mae'n effeithio arnoch. Gall hyn eich helpu i ddewis beth i'w fwyta a beth i'w osgoi.

Os nad ydych yn teimlo fel bwyta, gall helpu i fwyta sawl pryd bach yn ystod y dydd yn hytrach na 1 neu 2 bryd mawr. Os ydych yn parhau i gael problemau gyda'r hyn y gallwch fwyta, siaradwch â'ch nyrs neu feddyg.

Pryder

Gall teimlo'n bryderus neu boenus hefyd wneud eich pŵ fwy ar chwâl. Gallai dysgu sut i ymlacio helpu eich coluddyn i setlo ac mae hefyd yn beth da ar gyfer eich iechyd cyffredinol a'ch gwellhad.

Os oes gennych stoma

Os oes gennych stoma dros dro neu barhaol ar ôl eich llawdriniaeth, byddwch angen ychydig o amser i addasu iddo. Efallai y bydd hefyd yn ddefnyddiol i chi siarad â rhywun arall sydd â stoma. Efallai gall eich nyrs drefnu hyn i chi. Bydd eich nyrs yn eich dysgu sut i reoli eich stoma gartref.

Cerdyn toileted Macmillan

Os byddwch angen defnyddio'r toileted ar frys pan fyddwch allan, gallwch gario cerdyn toileted Macmillan, sydd i'w gael am ddim, gyda chi. Gallwch ddangos hwn mewn lleoedd fel siopau, swyddfeydd a chaffis. Gobeithiwn bydd yn eich helpu i gael mynediad at doiled ond efallai na fydd yn gweithio ym mhobman.

Gallwch gael un drwy ffonio Llinell Gymorth Macmillan ar **0808 808 00 00**. Neu, gallwch ei archebu ar ein gwefan yn **be.macmillan.org.uk**

Gallwch hefyd ddefnyddio toiledau anabl. Mae ynddynt fasn ymolchi a lle i newid eich dillad. Mae toiledau anabl weithiau wedi eu cloi. Gallwch brynu allwedd oddi wrth Disability Rights UK.

Dilyniant

Ar ôl i'ch triniaeth ddod i ben, byddwch yn cael gwiriadau a phrofion gwaed rheolaidd. Gall y rhain barhau am rai blynnyddoedd, ond byddant yn digwydd yn llai aml.

Eich teimladau

Mae'r rhan fwyaf o bobl yn teimlo wedi ei llethu pan ddywedir wrthynt fod ganddynt ganser ac maent yn profi sawl emosiwn gwahanol. Does dim ffordd gywir nac anghywir o ymateb. Mae yna sawl ffordd i ymdopi gyda hyn. Gallai siarad â ffrind agos neu berthynas helpu. Gall eich meddyg neu nyrs helpu hefyd.

Sut y gall Macmillan helpu

Mae Macmillan yma i'ch helpu chi a'ch teulu. Gallwch gael cefnogaeth gan:

- **Linell Gefnogaeth Macmillan (0808 808 00 00).** Mae gennym gyfieithwyr, felly gallwch siarad gyda ni yn eich iaith. Dywedwch wrthym, yn Saesneg, yr iaith rydych am ei defnyddio. Gallwn ateb cwestiynau meddygol, roi gwybodaeth am gefnogaeth ariannol neu siarad gyda chi am eich teimladau. Mae'r llinell ffôn ar agor o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener, 9am i 8pm.
- **Gwefan Macmillan (macmillan.org.uk).** Mae gan ein gwefan lawer o wybodaeth yn Saesneg am ganser a byw gyda chanser. Mae mwy o wybodaeth mewn ieithoedd eraill yn macmillan.org.uk/translations
- **Canolfannau gwybodaeth.** Yn y ganolfan wybodaeth, gallwch siarad gydag arbenigwr canser a chael gwybodaeth ysgrifenedig. Chwiliwch am eich canolfan agosaf yn macmillan.org.uk/informationcentres neu ffoniwch ni. Efallai y bydd gan eich ysbty ganolfan.
- **Grwpiau cefnogaeth lleol** – Chwiliwch am grŵp yn eich ardal chi ar macmillan.org.uk/supportgroups neu ffoniwch ni.
- **Cymuned Ar-lein Macmillan** – Gallwch siarad gyda phobl eraill mewn sefyllfaodd tebyg ar macmillan.org.uk/community

Rhestr geiriau

Barrier cream	[Bar-î-yr crîm]	Eli rhwystr	Elw gwrth-ddŵr sy'n amddiffyn y croen rhag hylifau'r corff.
Cells	[Séls]	Celloedd	Y blociau adeiladu bach sy'n llunio organau a meinwe ein corff.
Chemotherapy	[Cî-mo-ther-apî]	Cemotherapi	Triniaeth canser sy'n defnyddio cyffuriau i ladd celloedd canser.
Colostomy	[Col-os-to-mi]	Colostomi	Stoma a wnaed o ran o'r colon.
Diagnosis	[Dei-ag-no-sis]	Diagnosis	Darganfod os oes gennych salwch ai peidio.
Diarrhoea	[Dai-yr-î-a]	Dolur rhydd	Pan fydd eich pŵ yn feddal neu'n ddyfrllyd. Efallai byddwch angen y toiled yn amlach neu ar frys. Efallai bydd gennych boen bol hefyd.
Early stage	[Yr-li Stêj]	Cam cynnar	Canser sydd newydd ddechrau tyfu ac nid yw wedi lledaenu i rannau eraill o'r corff.
Ileostomy	[Ili-os-ty-mi]	Ileostomi	Stoma a wnaed o ran o'r coluddyn bach.
Ileum	[Ili-ym]	Ilewym	Y rhan o'r coluddyn bach sy'n ymuno â'r colon.
Lymphatic system	[Lum-ffat-ic sus-tem]	Y system lymffatig	Rhwydwaith o lestri a chwarennau ledled y corff sy'n helpu i ymladd haint.
Lymph node	[Lumff nôd]	Nodyn lymff	Chwarren sy'n rhan o'r <u>system lymffatig</u> .
Radiotherapy	[Rei-dio ther-apî]	Radiotherapi	Triniaeth sy'n defnyddio pelydrau X ynni uchel i ddinistrio celloedd canser.
Side effects	[Said eff-ects]	Sgîl-effeithiau	Effeithiau digroeso triniaeth canser.
Stoma	[Sto-ma]	Stoma	Agoriad i'r corff a wnaed gan lawfeddyg.
Stoma nurse	[Sto-ma nyrs]	Nyrs stoma	Nyrs a fydd yn dangos i chi sut i ofalu am y stoma.
Surgery	[Syr-jy-ri]	Llawfeddygaeth	Cael llawdriniaeth.

Targeted therapy	[Tar-get-ed ther-api]	Therapi targedig	Cyffuriau sy'n ymosod ar gelloedd canser ac yn gwneud llai o niwed i gelloedd normal.
Tumour	[Tiw-myr]	Tiwmor	Grŵp o gelloedd sy'n tyfu mewn ffordd annormal. Mae'r celloedd annormal yn lluosogi ac yn ffurio lwm.

Mwy o wybodaeth yn Gymraeg

Mae gennym wybodaeth yn Gymraeg am y pynciau hyn:

Mathau o ganser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canser y fron Canser y coluddyn Canser yr ysgyfaint Canser y brostad Triniaethau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cemotherapi Radiotherapi Llawfeddygaeth 	Ymdopi â chanser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Os cewch ddiagnosis o ganser - Canllaw cyflym Problemau bwyta a chanser Diwedd oes Cymorth ariannol - budd-daliadau Bwyta'n iach Blinder gyda chanser Sgîl-effeithiau triniaeth canser Yr hyn y gallwch ei wneud i helpu'ch hun
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I weld yr wybodaeth hon, ewch i macmillan.org.uk/translations

Siaradwch â ni yn Gymraeg

Gallwch ffonio Macmillan am ddim ar **0808 808 00 00** a siarad â ni yn eich iaith eich hun trwy gyfeithydd. Gallwch siarad â ni am eich pryderon a'ch cwestiynau meddygol. Dywedwch wrthym, yn Saesneg, yr iaith rydych am ei defnyddio.

Rydyn ni ar agor o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener, 9am tan 8pm.

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Gyda diolch i: Kimberly Bennet, Prif Arbenigydd Nysrio Clinigol Macmillan; Kathryn Hair, Rheolwr Canolfan Wybodaeth a Chymorth Macmillan; ac Aileen Roy, Arbenigydd Nysrio Caner Colorefrol Macmillan. Diolch hefyd i'r bobl a effeithiwyd gan ganser sydd wedi addolygu'r rhifyn hwn.

Mae'r holl wybodaeth yn seiliedig ar y dystiolaeth orau sydd ar gael. Am ragor o wybodaeth am y ffynonellau a ddefnyddiwn, cysylltwch â ni yn cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk

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Bowel cancer

This information is about bowel cancer and treatments for bowel cancer.

Any words that are underlined are explained in the word list at the end.

If you have any questions, ask your doctor or nurse at the hospital where you are having your treatment.

If you have any questions or want to talk to someone, you can call Macmillan Cancer Support on **0808 808 00 00**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm. We have interpreters, so you can speak to us in your own language. Just tell us, in English, the language you want to use.

We have more information in [language] about different cancers, treatments and living with cancer.

Visit macmillan.org.uk/translations or call us on **0808 808 00 00**.

In this fact sheet:

- The bowel
- Bowel cancer
- How treatment is planned
- Talking to your healthcare team
- Questions to ask about your treatment
- Treatments for bowel cancer
- Possible side effects of your treatment
- Follow up
- Your feelings
- How Macmillan can help
- Word list
- More information in [language]

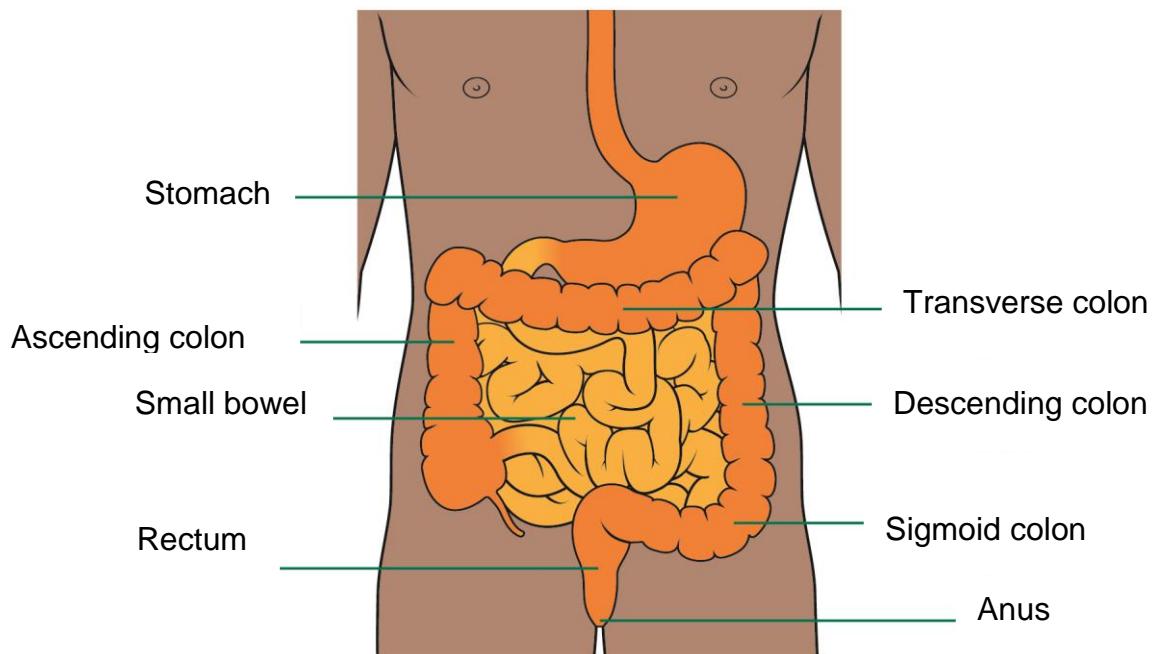
The bowel

The bowel is part of the digestive system, which breaks down and absorbs food so that the body can use it. It has two parts, the small bowel and the large bowel.

The large bowel has different parts. These are:

- the colon
- the rectum
- the anus.

The bowel



Bowel cancer

Cancer can affect different parts of the bowel. The two main types of bowel cancer are:

- colon cancer
- rectal cancer.

Cancer of the large bowel is also called colorectal cancer. Small bowel cancer and cancer of the anus are rare. We have information about these cancers in English. All parts of the body are made up of tiny cells. Bowel cancer happens when the cells in the bowel grow in an uncontrolled way and form a lump called a tumour. Most bowel cancers start in the lining of the bowel.

Sometimes, cancer cells spread to other parts of the body through the blood and the lymphatic system. This is called secondary cancer.

Bowel cancer is not infectious and cannot be passed on to other people.

Stages and grades of bowel cancer

- The stage of a cancer means how big it is and if it has spread.
- The grade of a cancer is how quickly the cancer may grow.

How treatment is planned

Your healthcare team will meet to plan the best treatment for you. Your doctor or nurse will talk to you about this plan. Your treatment will depend on factors, such as:

- the stage and grade of the cancer
- your general health
- the benefits of treatment and possible side effects
- what you think about the available treatments.

Talking to your healthcare team

It is important to talk about any treatment with your doctor, so that you understand what it means. After talking with you, your doctor will ask you to sign a consent form to show that you understand and agree to the treatment. This is called giving consent. You will not be given treatment unless you have agreed to it.

It is a good idea to take someone with you who can speak both [language] and English. Or your hospital can arrange an interpreter for you. Let your nurse know if you need one.

Questions to ask about your treatment

- What does my diagnosis mean?
- What is the stage and grade of the cancer?
- What treatments are available?
- What are the benefits, risks and side effects of each treatment?
- How will the treatment affect my daily life?
- Who can I talk to about how I am feeling?

We have more information in your language about being diagnosed with cancer.

Treatments for bowel cancer

Treatments for bowel cancer include:

- an operation (surgery)
- drugs (chemotherapy or targeted therapy)
- radiotherapy

Many people have more than one type of treatment, such as an operation and then chemotherapy or radiotherapy. There can be different types of treatment for colon or rectal cancer.

An operation

An operation (surgery) to remove the cancer is the most common treatment for bowel cancer.

Sometimes, very early-stage bowel cancers can be removed with a small operation called a local resection. The doctor removes the cancer using special surgical tools passed through the anus.

But most people will have an operation to remove part of the bowel. The doctor will usually also remove some lymph nodes from near the cancer. Lymph nodes are often where the cancer spreads to first.

You may have your operation as:

- open surgery
- keyhole (laparoscopic) surgery.

Open surgery means the surgeon makes a large cut before removing the cancer. During keyhole surgery, the surgeon makes 4 or 5 small cuts. They put surgical tools through the cuts to remove the cancer. You usually recover more quickly from keyhole surgery than from open surgery.

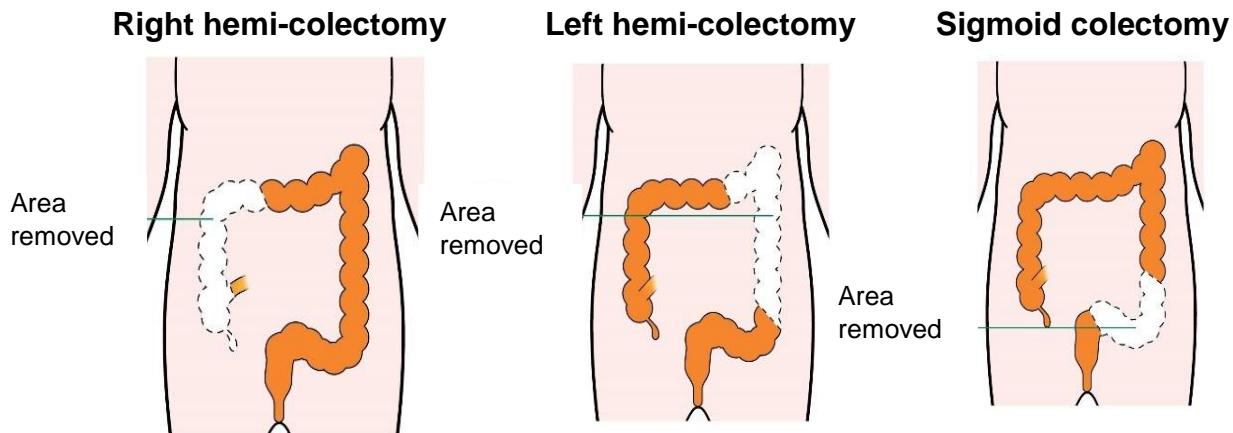
A surgeon performing keyhole (laparoscopic) surgery



Types of operation for colon cancer

- **Hemi-colectomy** – half of the colon is removed. This may be the right or left side, depending on where the cancer is.
- **Sigmoid colectomy** – the sigmoid colon is removed.

After removing the part of the bowel where the cancer is, the surgeon joins the two ends of the bowel together.



Very rarely, all the colon needs to be removed. This is called a total colectomy. Your doctor will tell you more about this if you need this type of operation.

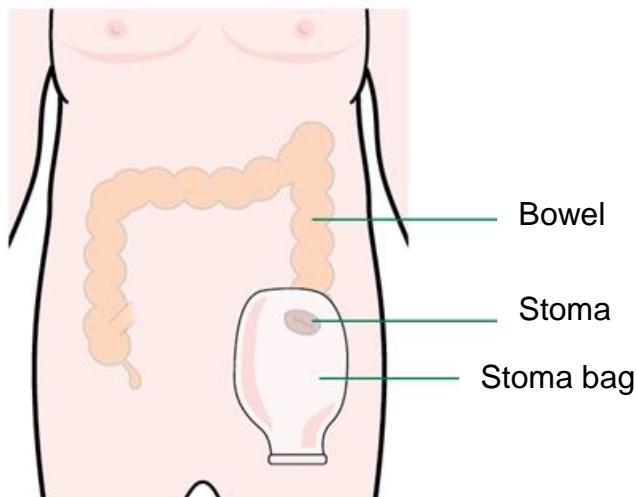
Stomas

If the ends of the bowel cannot be joined together, part of the bowel can be brought out onto the tummy (abdomen). This opening is called a stoma.

- If the stoma is made from the colon, it is called a colostomy.
- If the stoma is made from the small bowel (ileum), it is called an ileostomy.

You wear a special bag over the stoma to collect the poo.

A stoma and stoma bag

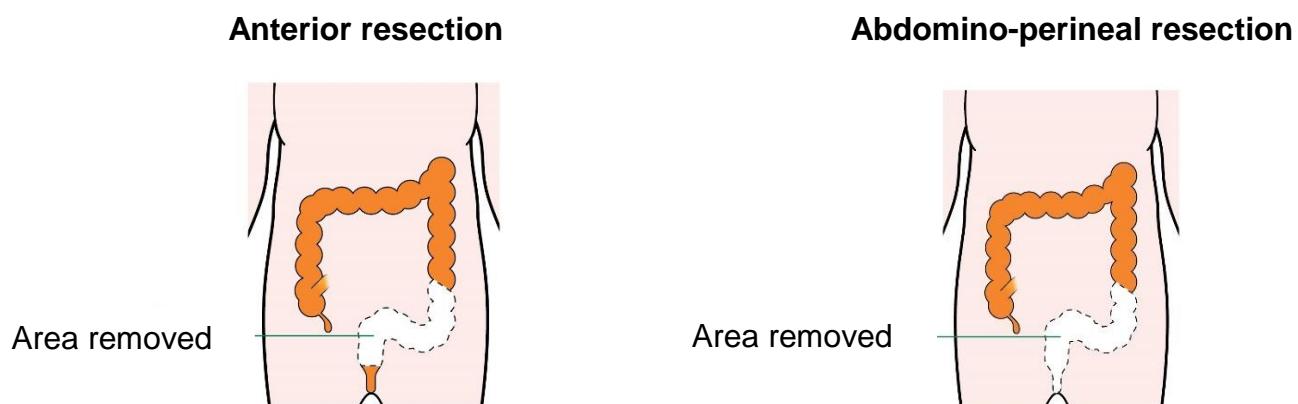


You may only have this for a short time after an operation, to allow the bowel to heal. But sometimes it may be permanent. A stoma nurse will show you how to look after the stoma and give you more advice and information.

Types of operation for rectal cancer

Anterior resection – the doctor removes the whole rectum with the fatty tissue and lymph nodes around it.

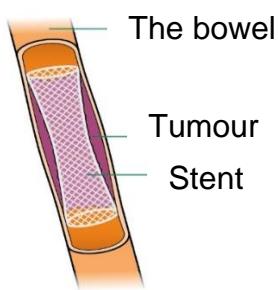
Abdomino-perineal resection – this is usually used for cancers near the lower end of the rectum. The doctor removes the rectum and anus. After this operation, you will have a permanent stoma.



Types of operation for bowel cancer that has spread

Sometimes, colon cancer blocks the bowel and stops poo from passing through. This can cause tummy pain and vomiting. The doctor may insert a thin tube (stent) into the bowel to keep it open. If this is not possible, they may remove the blocked part of the bowel with an operation.

A part of the bowel with a stent inside



You can sometimes have surgery to remove cancer that has spread to other parts of the body, such as the liver or lungs.

We have more information in [language] about surgery and some of the side effects you may have.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy uses anti-cancer drugs to destroy cancer cells. You do not usually need chemotherapy for early stage bowel cancer.

Chemotherapy can be given:

- after surgery to reduce the risk of cancer coming back
- before surgery for a cancer that has spread – this is to shrink the cancer and reduce the risk of it coming back
- as the main treatment for cancer that has spread.

Chemotherapy drugs can cause side effects that make you feel unwell.

Different drugs can cause different side effects. These include:

- being more likely to get an infection
- feeling tired
- feeling sick or being sick
- a sore mouth
- hair loss.

Your doctor can talk to you about the side effects you may have and how to manage them. Most side effects can be controlled with drugs. Most side effects go away when chemotherapy is over.

We have more information in [language] about chemotherapy and some of the side effects you may have.

Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy uses high-energy x-rays to destroy the cancer cells. You would not usually have radiotherapy for colon cancer but it is a common treatment for rectal cancers.

You may have radiotherapy before an operation for rectal cancer. It can be given to make the cancer smaller and easier to remove. Radiotherapy also reduces the chance of rectal cancer coming back. You will have the operation a few weeks after finishing the radiotherapy.

Radiotherapy may be used after an operation if there is a chance that some cancer remains.

If rectal cancer has spread or comes back, you may have radiotherapy to make it smaller. It can also help with symptoms such as pain.

We have more information in [language] about radiotherapy and some of the side effects you may have.

Chemoradiation

If you have a rectal cancer, you may have chemotherapy and radiotherapy together. This is called chemoradiation. It can work better than chemotherapy or radiotherapy alone but the side effects may be worse.

Targeted (biological) therapies

Targeted therapies use the differences between cancer cells and normal cells to stop cancer cells growing. They may be used to treat bowel cancers that have spread.

Side effects include:

- feeling tired
- dry skin or a rash
- diarrhoea
- flu symptoms.

Most side effects can be controlled with drugs and go away when treatment is over.

Possible side effects of your treatment

We have more information in your language about common cancer treatment side effects. Our information about tiredness and eating problems may also be helpful.

Below are some other side effects that you may have during and after bowel cancer treatment.

Bowel changes

After treatment, your bowel may work differently for a while. You may:

- have diarrhoea
- need to poo more often
- not get much warning when you need to poo
- have a sore bottom.

These usually improve over time. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have these side effects or if they do not improve. They can give you advice and medicines to help.

Protect your skin

Having loose or watery poo can make the skin around your bottom sore.

These tips may help:

- Keep the skin around your anus (back passage) clean and dry.
- Use unperfumed wet wipes as they are softer on your skin than toilet paper.
- Use barrier creams to help protect your skin – but only use creams that your doctor and nurse have recommended.
- Wear cotton underwear to keep your skin dry and cool.

Diet changes

Sometimes food such as fruit and vegetables may make your poo loose and make you go to the toilet more often. It can help to keep a diary of what you eat and how this affects you. This can help you choose what to eat and what to avoid.

If you do not feel like eating, it can help to eat several small meals a day instead of 1 or 2 large meals. If you continue to have problems with what you can eat, speak to your nurse or doctor.

Anxiety

Feeling anxious or worried can also make your poo looser. Learning how to relax may help your bowel to settle and is also good for your general health and recovery.

If you have a stoma

If you have a temporary or permanent stoma after your operation, you will need some time to adjust to it. You may find it helps to talk to someone else with a stoma. Your nurse may be able to arrange this for you. Your nurse will teach you how to manage your stoma at home.

Macmillan toilet card

If you need to use a toilet urgently when you are out, you can carry a free Macmillan toilet card. You can show this in places such as shops, offices and cafes. We hope it helps you get access to a toilet but it may not work everywhere.

You can get one by calling our Macmillan Support Line on **0808 808 00 00**. Or, you can order it on our website at **be.macmillan.org.uk**

You can also use disabled toilets. They have a wash basin and space to change your clothes. Disabled toilets are sometimes locked. You can buy a key from Disability Rights UK.

Follow up

After your treatment has finished, you will have regular check-ups and tests. These may continue for several years, but will become less often.

Your feelings

You may feel overwhelmed when you are told you have cancer and have many different emotions. There is no right or wrong way to feel. There are many ways to cope with this. Talking to a close friend or relative may help. Your doctor or nurse can help too.

How Macmillan can help

Macmillan is here to help you and your family. You can get support from:

- **The Macmillan Support Line (0808 808 00 00).** We have interpreters, so you can speak to us in your language. Just tell us, in English, the language you want to use. We can answer medical questions, give you information about financial support, or talk to you about your feelings. The phone line is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm.
- **The Macmillan website (macmillan.org.uk).** Our website has lots of English information about cancer and living with cancer. There is more information in other languages at macmillan.org.uk/translations
- **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.
- **Macmillan Online Community** – You can talk to other people in similar situations at macmillan.org.uk/community

Word list

Word	Meaning	English	Transliteration
	Waterproof cream that protects the skin from body fluids.	Barrier cream	
	The tiny building blocks that make up the organs and tissues of our body.	Cells	
	A cancer treatment that uses drugs to kill cancer cells.	Chemotherapy	
	A stoma made from part of the colon.	Colostomy	
	Finding out whether you have an illness or not.	Diagnosis	
	When you have soft or watery poo. You might need the toilet more than usual or very urgently. You may also have tummy pain.	Diarrhoea	
	Cancer that has only just started to grow and has not spread to other parts of the body.	Early stage	
	A stoma made from part of the small bowel.	Ileostomy	
	The part of the small bowel that joins with the colon.	Ileum	
	A network of vessels and glands throughout the body that helps to fight infection.	Lymphatic system	
	A gland that is part of the <u>lymphatic system</u> .	Lymph node	

	A cancer treatment that uses high-energy x-rays to kill cancer cells.	Radiotherapy	
	Unwanted effects of cancer treatment.	Side effects	
	An opening into the body made by a surgeon.	Stoma	
	Nurse who will show you how to care for the stoma.	Stoma nurse	
	Having an operation.	Surgery	
	Drugs that attack cancer cells and do less harm to normal cells.	Targeted therapy	
	A group of cells that are growing in an abnormal way. The abnormal cells keep multiplying and form a lump.	Tumour	

More information in [language]

We have information in [language] about these topics:

Types of cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breast cancer • Bowel cancer • Lung cancer • Prostate cancer
Treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemotherapy • Radiotherapy • Surgery

Coping with cancer

- If you're diagnosed with cancer – A quick guide
- Eating problems and cancer
- End of life
- Financial support - benefits
- Healthy eating
- Tiredness (fatigue) and cancer
- Side effects of cancer treatment
- What you can do to help yourself

To see this information, go to macmillan.org.uk/translations

Speak to us in [language]

You can call Macmillan free on **0808 808 00 00** and speak to us in your own language through an interpreter. You can talk to us about your worries and medical questions. Just tell us, in English, the language you want to use.

We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm.

References and thanks

This information has been written and edited by Macmillan Cancer Support's Cancer Information Development team.

This fact sheet is based on more detailed Macmillan information, which we can send you or you can read online. The more detailed information is only available in English.

This information has been reviewed by relevant experts and approved by our Chief Medical Editor, Dr Tim Iveson, Macmillan Consultant Medical Oncologist.

With thanks to: Kimberly Bennet, Macmillan Lead Clinical Nurse Specialist; Kathryn Hair, Macmillan Information and Support Centre Manager; and Aileen Roy, Macmillan Colorectal Cancer Nurse Specialist. Thanks also to the people affected by cancer who reviewed this edition.

All our information is based on the best evidence available. For more information about the sources we use, please contact us at
cancerinformationteam@macmillan.org.uk

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Next planned review: 2020

We make every effort to ensure that the information we provide is accurate but it should not be relied upon to reflect the current state of medical research, which is constantly changing. If you are concerned about your health, you should consult your doctor. Macmillan cannot accept liability for any loss or damage resulting from any inaccuracy in this information or third-party information such as information on websites to which we link.

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