

# PRIMARY CARE 10 TOP TIPS

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## Late effects of cancer treatment

**Cancer patients have an increased risk of second tumours – especially children and young people. Chemotherapy increases leukaemia risk and radiotherapy tumour risk. Cancer survival is improving but the incidence of severe consequences is unchanged. Identify those who have had cancer treatment – GP records are most reliable. Primary care is good at managing chronic and long term conditions. Not all those at risk will be affected. Accurate coding at the time of treatment will help identification of those at risk of future problems. The treatment summary will help the recording of treatment and future risk.**

- 1** Cancer patients are more at risk of chronic illness, of earlier onset and are more receptive to intervention.
- 2** Adverse consequences of treatment occur – not because a mistake has been made.
- 3** Those with leukaemia are more likely to die from the treatment than the disease.
- 4** Once late effects are identified, much can be done to mitigate these. Information lessens fear rather than increasing it.

- 5** We don't know what the long term effects of current treatments will be.
- 6** Smoking remains major risk for many cancers.
- 7** Pelvic radiation has a high risk of causing chronic disease and disability.
- 8** Hypothyroidism is increased in young cancer patients and after head and neck radiotherapy.

- 9** Anti-androgen treatments for prostate cancer have adverse effects of cardiovascular risk and bone density.
- 10** Radiotherapy to the lung or chest increases lung cancer risk.