

9 ways to reduce your cancer risk

Up to half of cancer cases in the United States could be **prevented** through healthy lifestyle behaviors.



Maintain a healthy weight

Having a high body weight increases your risk for certain cancers, including uterine, colorectal and post-menopausal breast cancer.



Eat healthy meals

Fill 2/3 of your plate with vegetables, fruits and whole grains. Fill the remaining 1/3 with lean animal protein or plant-based protein. Limit red meat and processed meat.



Stay active

Sit less. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity each week. Do muscle-strengthening exercises at least twice a week.



Don't smoke, vape or use any form of tobacco

If you do smoke, quit by using a program that includes a combination of medications, nicotine replacement like patches or gum, and counseling. E-cigarettes and vape devices are not proven to be a safe or effective way to help you quit.



Limit alcohol

For cancer prevention, it's best not to drink alcohol. It is linked to several cancers, including breast, colorectal and liver cancer.



Get vaccinated

All males and females ages 9–26 should get the HPV vaccine. It is most effective when given at ages 11–12. Unvaccinated men and women ages 27–45 should talk to their doctor about the benefits of the vaccine. Children and adults should be vaccinated against hepatitis B.



Get screened

Screening exams can find cancer early, when it is most treatable. They also find viruses that increase your cancer risk. Ask your doctor about screening exams for you based on your age, gender and risk factors.



Protect yourself from UV rays

Limit your exposure to the UV rays emitted by the sun and tanning beds. If you must be in the sun, wear sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher.



Know your family history

About 5-10% of cancers are inherited. Talk to your family about their medical history so your doctor can assess your risk.

Our cancer prevention specialists are experts in cancer risk reduction and early detection.

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Appointments available
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