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Program on
Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors

SPRECHER
INSTITUTE
for Comparative
Cancer Research

Biology of Cancer and the Breast

Frequently Asked Questions

■ Question

What is cancer?

■ Answer

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells anywhere in the body.

Some people are born with abnormal cells. Sometimes, changes in cells happen later. Cancer cell growth can be affected by a variety of things that go on for a long time both inside and outside our bodies.

One Disease or Many?

Cancer is not just one disease; it is actually an umbrella term for at least 100 different but related diseases, each of which may have its own set of causes.

Answered by: [Suzanne Snedeker, Ph.D.](#)

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