

Cancer Treatment and the lungs



The treatment you had can sometimes lead to problems with your lungs. This may be as a result of the drugs you received or because you had radiotherapy to the chest or both. Any problems are likely to be quite minor but your doctor may want you to have special breathing tests.

The most common problem is that the lungs have not grown quite as much as they should have. For the majority of people this is not noticeable and does not limit their activity. If you have had surgery to the chest, this may also have an effect. Patients who have had total body irradiation and a bone marrow transplant will normally have regular checks on their lungs.

People who have been treated with a drug called bleomycin will have been told to take care to avoid treatment with 100% oxygen e.g. if they need an anaesthetic, as this can be hazardous. If you are having an operation REMEMBER to tell the doctor that you have been treated with bleomycin.



Remember – if you develop a chronic cough, become unusually breathless, or get chest pains, you must contact your G.P.

To help protect against any problems take regular exercise and definitely do not smoke.

I didn't beat cancer to spend the rest of my life worrying!

Vanessa Moss

visit www.aftercure.org for tips, advice and other useful websites

Keep a record of sites you find useful: