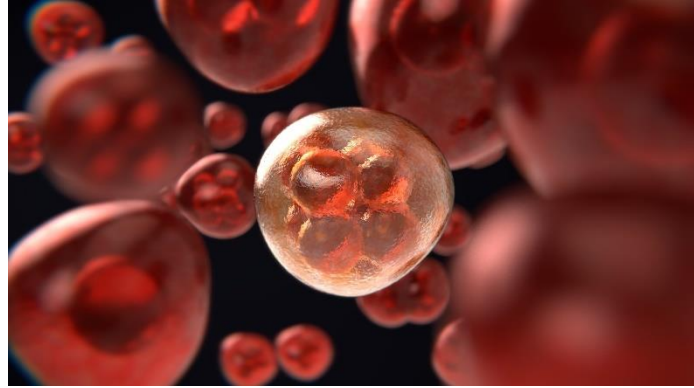


## FAST FACTS: Cancer Pain

Although not all patients with cancer experience pain, it is a significant problem. Approximately 75% of cancer pain is related to the direct tumor involvement, and 25% is related to cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation. Because cancer pain is often severe it is generally treated with opioids and other prescription medications depending on the site of the cancer and its associated symptoms. Pain medications are prescribed based on the pain intensity and the quality (feeling) of the pain.



### ✓ Cancer Pain

- Generally, impacts muscle, bone, and/or organs
- May cause tumor invasion, swelling of soft tissue, bowel obstruction, or bone metastasis (spreading of cancer from original tumor site into the bones)
- Bone or muscle pain generally is described as achy and dull. This type of pain is very localized and area causing discomfort should be easy to identify.
- Organ or intestinal pain is often described as cramping, pressure or a deep ache. Commonly causes discomfort in other areas of the body (often seen as back pain).

### ✓ Common Treatment

- Common Opioid Analgesics for Moderate Pain (4-6 on a 10-point scale)
  - Acetaminophen with codeine
  - Acetaminophen with hydrocodone
  - Acetaminophen with oxycodone
- Common Opioid Analgesics for Severe Pain (7-10 on 10-point scale)
  - Morphine Sulfate
  - Oxycodone
  - Hydromorphone



### ✓ What Caregivers can do to help their loved one with Cancer Pain

- Write down and share information about your pain with your Healthcare provider.
- Use a [Pain Diary](#) to note important information useful to your provider.