

Ngā mōhiohio mate
pukupuku whero

Information on anal cancer

A guide for bowel cancer patients and their whānau.



At a glance...

- Anal cancer is highly treatable if detected early.
- Most patients diagnosed with anal cancer do not need surgery - just radiation therapy.
- It is most common in people 70+ years and slightly more common in women.
- About half of all anal cancers are diagnosed before spreading beyond the anus.

We were told the cancer was stage one. The tumour, or basaloid, was 2cm long. That was a huge relief, to be honest, and it meant a plan could be put in place.

KALOU, BOWEL CANCER SURVIVOR

There are 3 types of anal cancer

Anal cancers are defined by their location and the type of cell from which they arise. The most common type is a squamous cell carcinoma (75% of cases), while the other two less common types are cloacogenic (basaloid) carcinoma and adenocarcinomas.

Know the risk factors for anal cancer

While the cause of anal cancer is unknown, there are factors that may increase the risk. The most prevalent is persistent human papillomavirus (HPV) infection (the virus responsible for genital and anal warts) which is thought to have a role in nearly 90% of anal cancers.

Other factors include smoking tobacco, a history of cervical or vaginal cancer, and those in an older age group. A full list of risk factors can be found at bowelcancernz.org.nz.

Symptoms of anal cancer can include:

- Bleeding from the bottom (rectal bleeding)
- Itching and pain around the anus.
- Small lumps around the anus.
- A discharge of mucus from the anus.
- Loss of bowel control (bowel incontinence).



Want to know more?

Visit our website for more information.
bowelcancernz.org.nz > About bowel cancer
> What is bowel cancer? > Anal cancer



Helpful tip

Anal cancer is highly treatable if found early. If you have noticed any changes, make an appointment with your GP.



NEED SUPPORT?

Contact our bowel cancer support nurse:
Email: here4you@bowelcancernz.org.nz
Phone: 0800 BCNZ NURSE (226 968)

Join our private Facebook group:
bowelcancernz.org.nz > Support > Finding Support

CONTACT US

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