

Adneocarcinoma

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Cancer that begins in the rectum is called rectal cancer. Most colon and rectal cancers are a type of tumor called adenocarcinoma, which is cancer of the cells that line the inside tissue of the colon and rectum. This section specifically covers adenocarcinoma.

Adenocarcinoma is a type of cancer that starts in mucus-producing glandular cells of your body. Many organs have these glands, and adenocarcinoma can occur in any of these organs. Common types include breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, and prostate cancer.

Adenocarcinoma can be considered fast-growing or slow-growing depending on how long the cancer takes to metastasize.

Stages of Adenocarcinoma

Stage I means the cancer is small and only in one area. This is also called early-stage cancer.

Stage II and III mean the cancer is larger and has grown into nearby tissues or lymph nodes.

Stage IV means the cancer has spread to other parts of your body.

Effects the Organs

Colon and rectum. The colon, which is also called your "large intestine," is part of your digestive system. It's a long tube that helps remove water and nutrients from the food you eat.

Adenocarcinoma is the most common type of colon cancer. It starts out as a small polyp, or growth, that's usually harmless

at first but can turn into cancer. The disease can also start in your rectum, the part of your large intestine where the left over waste from digested food, called stool, gets pushed out of your body

Breasts

Most breast cancers are adenocarcinomas. They start in the glands of the breast where milk is made.

Esophagus

This is the tube that carries food from your mouth to your stomach. Adenocarcinoma usually starts in mucus glands that line the lower part of your esophagus.

Lungs

Adenocarcinoma makes up about 40% of lung cancers. It's most often found in the outer part of the lungs and grows more slowly than other types of lung cancer. You usually get it if you're a smoker or used to be one.

Pancreas

This is an organ in the back of your belly, behind your stomach. It makes hormones and enzymes that help digest food. About 85% of pancreatic cancers are caused by adenocarcinoma. These tumors start in the ducts of this organ.

Prostate

This is a gland in men that's just below the bladder. It helps make some of the fluid that protects sperm cells. Adenocarcinoma starts in the cells that Take this fluid. Most prostate cancers are this type