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Health Matters: Cancer Terminology

Triston Sanders- Medical Anchor

Every day more than 1,500 people will die from cancer this year in the United States.

If you or a loved one has cancer, you will want to know everything there is to know about the disease and all your options available to treat it.

In this Health Matters we take a look at how you can go about understanding the medical terminology used when a diagnosis of cancer has been made.

With cancer being the second leading cause of death in America, oncologist Eric Rost says effective communication is essential when it comes to talking with your doctor about your specific type of cancer and the treatment options available to you.

"That intimate relation between the patient and the doctor has to be based on freedom to ask questions and to understand the results and to be comfortable to call up and say things are different or I don't understand something," he says.

So don't hesitate to ask for a definition or an explanation if your doctor uses terminology that you don't understand.

"Your doctor has to have the ability and the patience to teach and to educate every single patient that comes through."

The terminology, which your doctor uses in regards to your health problems, is very important. How we individually respond to health challenges can be enhanced by the words we use.

"When you don't understand what's being discussed or what the ramifications of something are, it's very fearful. If you know what it means, it's not so scary."

Your doctor is your first resource, but he or she doesn't have to be your only one.

"The most important thing is when you get all this information from many different sources is you should have someone who can decipher it and can explain it to you."

Knowledge is power when it comes to beating cancer, so don't be afraid to ask questions. The Cancer Hope Foundation can be reached at 800-797-5433, or go to the Cancer Hope Foundation's website at: www.cancerhope.com.

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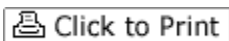
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