

the discovery of ways to build up the body's own defenses against the disease by checking the reproduction of cancer cells before a tumor is formed.

Tumors are not necessarily cancerous. Many tumors that form in the body as swellings or lumps are no more than excess fatty tissue or cysts that are called "benign" because they hold little or no danger for life or health. Your physician, of course, is the only one to decide whether a tumor calls for further investigation. Any lump or swelling should be brought to his attention.

The dangers of the "malignant" tumor, or cancer, are that it doesn't stop growing and that it spreads to other parts of the body. However, as long as this colony of cancer cells remains where the disease started, it can often be destroyed by radiation or removed by surgery. And so early detection is the vital factor in cancer control, for the dangerous phases of the disease are the later ones.

When cells start to break away from a cancerous tumor, they may spread the disease to other parts of the body where the lymph and blood vessels carry them. In the first stage of the disease's spread, which physicians call "metastasis," the malignant cells may be trapped in nearby lymph nodes. Before the disease spreads further, surgery and radiation still offer possibilities of cure.

WHERE CANCER STRIKES

SKIN

Skin cancers, the most easily detected, are practically 100 per cent curable with early, adequate treatment. If you have a wart or mole that changes in shape or color, or have a sore that does not heal, or notice a thickened scaly area on your skin, let your physician examine it promptly. Some people are more likely targets than others for the common types of skin cancer. More men than women have them, for example, and they are more common among older people. Furthermore, people who work out of doors a great deal show a higher percentage of skin cancers, in the areas of the body exposed to the sun—the face, neck, and hands. Proportionately more fair-skinned people are affected. Thus, physicians advise against overexposure to the sun, especially if you are fair-skinned.

MOUTH

Mouth cancers are more frequent among men. But since the mouth is so easily examined, there is little excuse for these cancers to develop unnoticed. When brushing your teeth, you should notice any fever blister, boil, or sore in your mouth that fails to heal; bring it to your physician's attention. With early detection and proper treatment, the present rate of cures of 36 per cent for this type of cancer could be almost doubled.

THROAT

Rate of cures is high for cancer of the larynx (voice box) if such obvious warnings signs as persistent hoarseness are heeded. Like a chronic sore throat—another possible sign of cancer—this symptom should not be treated with patent medicines or gargles if it goes on for more than two weeks but should be reported to your physician.

LUNGS

The leading cause of death from cancer among men today, lung cancer, is still increasing at an alarming rate, with fourteen times as many deaths estimated for 1961 as that for only thirty years ago. Lung cancer can develop silently, or your body may try to warn you with a persistent but sometimes slight cough that you hardly notice. If you have such a cough, tell your





