



## Topics we will discuss

- 1. General information
- 2. The day of your treatment
- 3. Cancer, treatments and possible side effects
- 4. Nutrition
- 5. Services available





How to get to the hospital?



Bus



Taxi/Uber



**Train** 



Car



Metro



Walking



How much does it cost to park?

	DURATION	COST
Daily Rates	Less than 2 hours	Free
	2 h to 3 h 59 mins	\$ 6.75
	4 h to 24 h	\$ 11.25
Passes for frequent users (10 visits or more per month)	7 day pass	\$ 25.50
	Flexi-pass (10 visits/ month)	\$ 32.50
	30 day pass	\$ 51.00

## Passes for frequent users

- Fill out a form at the Cedars CanSupport (D RC.1329)
- Present the form to the parking office
   (D RC.1000) to purchase your pass.



**Oncology day centre** 



Treatment room: D RC.1438

**Clinic hours**:

Monday to Thursday 8 am - 6 pm Friday from 8 am - 5 pm



Radiation oncology clinic: D S1.1620

Clinic hours:
Monday to Friday
8 am - 5:15 pm



Blood test center: D RC.1306

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 7 am - 4:15 pm



#### **Important phone numbers**

Service	Phone number
<b>General number (Oncology department)</b>	514 934-4400
Oncology clinic nurse	514 934-1934, ext. 34160
Radiotherapy clinic nurse	514 934-1934, ext. 43400
Oncology pharmacist	514 934-1934, ext. 45470
Cedars CanSupport	514 934-1934, ext. 35297 or 31666
Psychosocial oncology program	514 934-1934, ext. 45502
Info-Santé	811





If possible, bring a <u>family</u> member or a friend



**One visitor ONLY** 

**Emotional Support** 

**Remember** information



No pregnant women



No children under 12 years old

Ask questions

Bring you home



The course of your treatment



**Blood test** 



Doctor's appointment



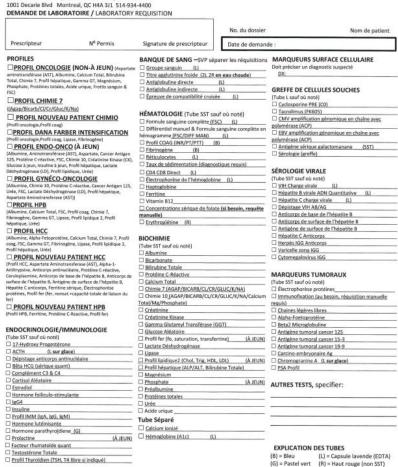
**Treatment** appointment



#### **Step 1: Blood test**



When?	Done 1-3 da
Why?	To make sur
Where?	1. At the C
	2. At the C
Fasting?	No need to



Centre universitaire de santé McGill University
Health Centre

Centre du Cancer des Cèdres, Site Glen DRC.1438, CUSM/
Cedars Cancer Center. Glen Site DRC.1438, MUHC

reatment.



**Step 2: Doctor appointment** 



When?	At regular times throughout your treatment
Why?	Your doctor will meet with you to make sure you are ready for your next treatment. Your informed consent is required before each treatment.
Where?	In person at the Cedars Cancer Centre



**Step 3: Treatment appointment** 



When?	24 to 72 hours after your doctor's visit
Why?	*Not the same day of the doctor. This allows enough time to make sure everything is safe. This is the safest way for you to receive your cancer treatments.
How often?	Depends on your treatment.
How long?	Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse



#### Importance of family doctors

#### If you have a family doctor

- Stay in touch with your family doctor for other health issues.
- It is important to give the full name of your family doctor to the admission office.

#### If you do not have a family doctor

- It is important to register on the government website to be on the waiting list → Québec Family Doctor Finder | Gouvernement du Québec
- 2. CanSupport volunteers can help you register.





## What should you do before coming?



Eat a light meal or snack



Take your usual medications

#### What should you wear?



Wear comfortable clothes



Blouse or top with buttons or a zipper that can easily open.



Bring something warm



#### What to bring?



**Medicare card** 



**Oncology passport** 



**List of questions** 



Vitamins, supplements and natural products



Your regular medications (regular and as needed)



How to register?

#### Please arrive at your appointment time











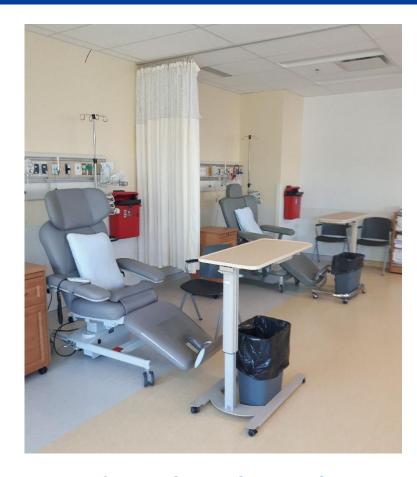


Your nurse will come find you when they are <u>ready</u>

Check in at the kiosk with your health card



**Treatment room** 



**Pods with recliner chairs** 



**Rooms with stretchers** 



**During your treatment** 

#### What to expect?

- We will evaluate how you are doing
- We will answer your questions
- We will **double verify** your identity (name and date of birth)
- We will administer your treatment
- We will monitor for side effects
- You will meet with the pharmacist



#### **Important**

If you do feel anything different or are uncomfortable, tell your nurse





**During your treatment** 



You must **stay** in the treatment room



Eat and drink



Go to the washroom



Use your cellphone (Wi-Fi available)



Do things to pass the time (read, listen to music, or watch videos)

#### Respect the other patients



Minimize noise, wear headphones



Speak softly



Put phone on **vibrate** 



Avoid strong odours
(Parfume/food that smells strong)



### After each treatment

#### For 4 days after receiving chemo, protect others by:

- ✓ Sitting to pee (for men)
- ✓ Flushing **twice** with the lid closed after using the toilet
- ✓ Washing your hands with soap and water after using the toilet
- ✓ Cleaning the toilet once a day
- ✓ Using a **condom** during sex

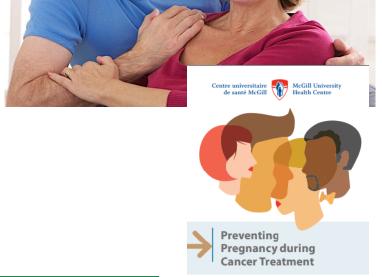


## Intimacy with your partner

- If you feel up to it, you can have sex while on treatment. You must use condoms to prevent pregnancy.
- Besides having sex, there are other ways to stay intimate: hold hands, hug, touch or cuddle, spend time together.

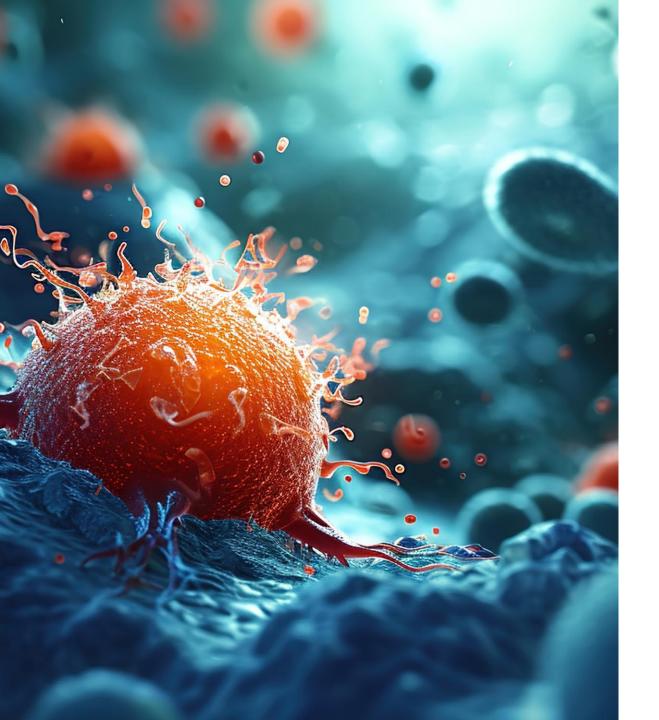


A negative pregnancy test is required before starting treatment





If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your doctor or nurse.





## **Cancer**

- What is cancer?
- Property of the second of t

What are the possible side effects?



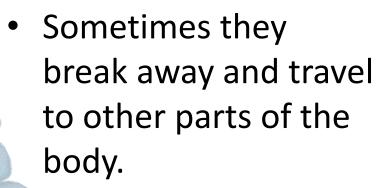
## What is cancer?

#### **Normal Cells**

Grow, divide, and die.

#### **Cancer Cells**

 Grow and divide out of control. They do not die when they're supposed to.







## How is cancer treated?

#### 3 main treatments



Surgery



Radiotherapy



Cancer medications Chemotherapy, immunotherapy and Targeted therapies

Whole body



Specific part of body



## How do cancer medications work?

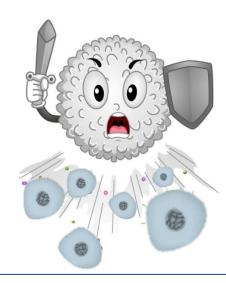
#### Chemotherapy

Destroys cancer cells



#### **Immunotherapy**

Makes the body's own immune system fight the cancer cells.





# How will you receive cancer medications?







Injection



Chemo pump



Pills

CLINIC HOME





## What is your treatment?

Depends on your general condition

Your doctor will discuss which options are best for you

Your pharmacist will explain your treatment

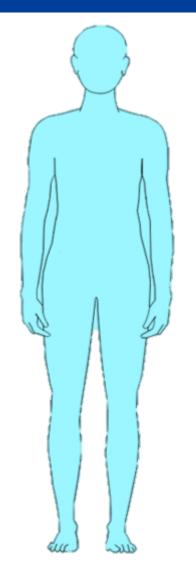
Depends on your cancer type

General information

Your treatment Your nurse will review it



## What about side effects?



Cancer medications work **all** over the body.

Chemotherapy affects healthy cells in the body, not just cancer cells.

Immunotherapy can make your immune system overreact towards healthy cells, not just cancer cells.

Side effects





### What are the facts?

#### You will not get all the possible side effects!

- Different medications have different side effects. Your doctor, pharmacist and nurse will tell you about possible side effects of <u>your</u> treatment.
- Even if getting the same medication, each person may react differently to the same medications.

#### **Side Effects**

Some side effects can be prevented.

Most side effects are manageable and temporary.



## Possible side effects Due to chemotherapy

- Fatigue
- Brain fog (Chemo brain)
- Nausea and vomiting
- Mouth sores
- Diarrhea or constipation
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Change in the skin and nails
- Hair loss
- Risk of infection

# Going Home After Chemotherapy: What I Need to Know







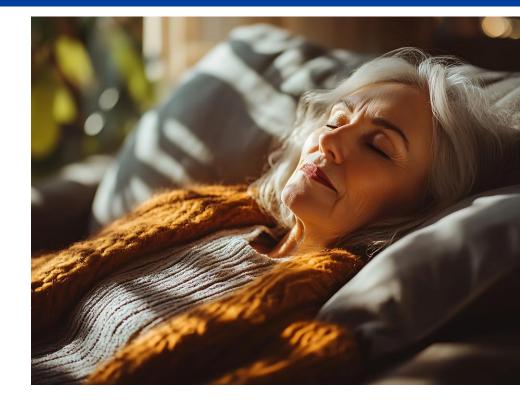


**Fatigue** 

Cancer-related fatigue is a draining, ongoing exhaustion that limits one's ability to enjoy life and do activities.

Happens for many reasons: cancer medications, emotions, or the cancer itself.

Not just **physical**, but also **mental**.





If you are concerned by the level of fatigue, speak to your doctor or call us.



How to manage physical fatigue?





Moving is the best way to reduce cancer-related fatigue.

**Get moving!** 



#### Listen to your body

You may have less energy and may need to rest more often.



How to manage mental fatigue?



#### Restore mental energy



- Be active physically.
- Spend time *outdoors*.
- Meditate.
- **Socialize** and spend time with loved ones
- Practice creative art.

#### Remain mentally active

Play *games* 





Write in a *journal* or take down *notes* 

Read





## Possible side effects Brain fog



#### Brain fog is when you have difficulty:

- thinking clearly
- staying organized
- concentrating
- remembering words or things



Causes: cancer medications, emotions, cancer



If you are concerned by the **severity of the brain fog**, speak to your doctor or call us.





#### Nausea and vomiting

Nausea: An uncomfortable feeling or uneasiness in your stomach.

Vomiting: Throwing up of the stomach content.

Causes: Cancer medications, or the cancer itself.

Generally prevented by medications and strategies from your oncology team.



If you take the anti-nausea medications and you still have nausea and vomiting, speak to your doctor or call us.





#### **Mouth sores**



- If possible, **see your dentist** before you start treatment.
- Good oral hygiene can reduce the risk of mouth sores.
- Use a toothbrush with soft bristles.

Salt water & baking soda rinse recipe

2 cups of cool boiled water + 1 teaspoon of table salt + 1 teaspoon of baking soda



If you rinse your mouth with salt water & baking soda and it is not help your mouth sores, speak to your doctor or call us.





#### **Diarrhea or Constipation**

**Diarrhea:** when you have to go to the bathroom more often and you have loose or watery bowel movements (stool).

**Constipation:** Having a hard time going to the bathroom and passing stool.

Generally prevented by medications and strategies from your oncology team.





If you are taking the medications to prevent diarrhea and constipation and there are **no changes**, speak to your doctor or call us.





**Peripheral neuropathy** 

 Numbness, tingling, burning, trembling, or pain in the hands and feet.

Problems with balance and coordination





If you feel that the symptoms of peripheral neuropathy are **getting worse or preventing you from completing your daily activities**, speak to your doctor or call us.





## Skin and nail changes



- Can be skin rashes or itchiness.
- You can be more sensitive to the sun.
- Can be nail colour change or brittleness.
- 1) Apply a moisturizing cream over the body as needed.
- 2) Use a **sunscreen**.
- 3) Avoid nail polish and artificial nails.



If the skin rashes or itchiness do not get better or the nails appear infected, speak to your doctor or call us.



Chemotherapy

**Hair loss** 

- Can be thinning or complete hair loss.
- In most cases, hair will grow back.

Avoid strong hair treatments like dyes or permanents (perm)



It is okay not to cover your head.



Scarves and turbans

Available at CanSupport



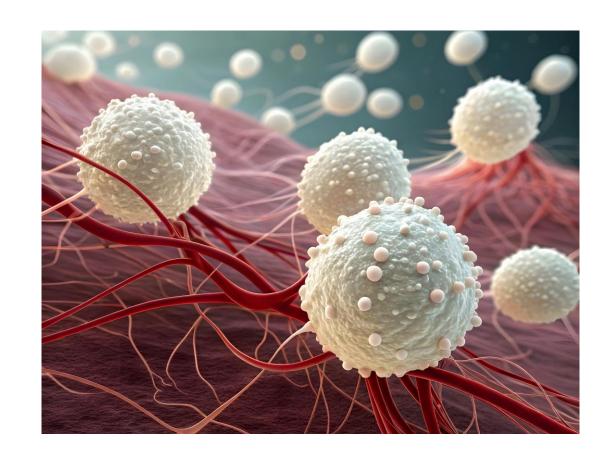
Wigs **Available at CanSupport** 



Chemotherapy

### **Risk of infection**

- White blood cells **protect** you from infections.
- Chemotherapy **reduces** how many white blood cells you have.
- It is **easier to get an infection** when you do not have as many white blood cells.





Chemotherapy

Ways to prevent infection



Wash your hands!



**Cough or sneeze** into your elbow



If you are sick or have symptoms, stay home



Wear a **mask** in public places (optional)





Risk of infection – Watch out for fever

If you are on chemotherapy, a fever may be the only way to know you have an infection.

**Fever** is a temperature of

**38.0 °C (100.4 °F) or higher** for 1 hour

38.3 °C (100 °F) or higher just once



#### Do NOT take Tylenol/Advil/Aspirin.

During clinic opening hours, call the oncology nurse **or** go to the emergency right away!



# Possible side effects Due to immunotherapy

- Flu-like symptoms
- Fatigue
- Skin rashes and itchiness
- Diarrhea
- Inflammation of certain body organs





# Possible side effects Flu-like symptoms



Flu-like symptoms are a **common side effect** of immunotherapy that can occur immediately after treatment and disappear after a few days.

### **Symptoms to watch for:**

- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle and joint aches
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite





If the symptoms do **not go away or are bothersome**, speak to your doctor or call us.



# Possible side effects Fatigue



Cancer-related fatigue is a draining, ongoing exhaustion that limits one's ability to enjoy life and do activities.

Happens for many reasons: cancer medications, emotions, or the cancer itself.

Not just **physical**, but also **mental**.





If you are concerned by the **level of fatigue**, speak to your doctor or call us.



# Possible side effects Skin rashes and itchiness



- Immunotherapy can give you a **rash** and make your skin **itchy**.
- The skin can become dry.
- You can be more sensitive to the sun.



2) Use a **sunscreen**.



If the skin rashes or itchiness do not get better or get worse, speak to your doctor or call us.





# Chemotherapy

### Diarrhea

- **Diarrhea:** when you have to go to the bathroom more often and you have loose or watery bowel movements (stool).
- Diarrhea can develop **during** treatment and **sometimes months or years** after treatment finished.
- 1) Important: Hydrate well (8-10 glasses of fluids per day)
- 2) Generally prevented by medications and strategies from your oncology team.





If you are taking the medications to prevent diarrhea and there are **no changes**, speak to your doctor or call us.



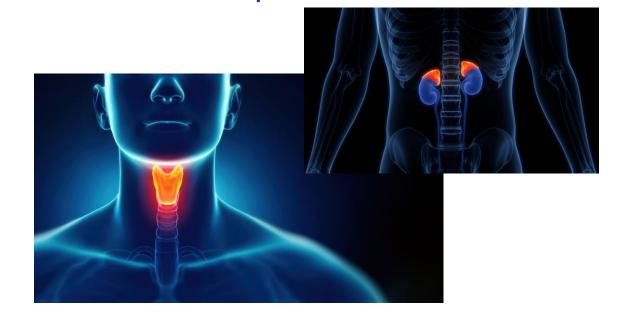
# Possible side effects Inflammation of certain body organs



Inflammation of certain body organs (thyroid, adrenal, pituitary, pancreas) can happen and lead to insufficient hormone production.

### **Symptoms to watch for:**

- Persistent and unusual headaches
- Dizziness or loss of consciousness
- Changes in your behavior
- Abdominal pain
- Decreased blood pressure





If you have these symptoms, call us during clinic hours or go to the emergency room.



## What can you do about the side effects?

**Take action** to prevent and manage side effects.

Going Home
After Chemotherapy:
What I Need to Know



Refer to the:
Going Home
after
Chemotherapy
booklet.



Write down your side effects. Tell your doctor or nurse about them when you see them.



**Call us** for questions or concerns.

\*Please leave a message with your full name and medicard number\*



Rapid Evaluation Clinic in Oncology (RECO)

### How this service helps you:

We want to help you avoid going to the emergency room for symptoms that can be treated in a clinic from *Monday to Friday from 8 am - 2 pm*.

### **Symptômes**

- Nausea/ vomiting
- Fever
- Mouth sores
- Diarrhea
- Dehydration

# You can be referred to the RECO only by a member of the oncology team following:

- A phone call
- A medical appointment (existing)
- A treatment appointment (existing)

#### **Important:**

An appointment is required



You may be directed to the emergency room despite visiting the RECO









## Maintain your weight

- Eat regularly
   3 meals per day and snacks. Do not skip meals.
- 2. Have protein at every meal And with most snacks.
- 3. Eat foods that you like
  There are no "special" foods.







## Stay hydrated



Drink 8 to 10 cups per day 1 cup = 250 mL

 Helps to flush out cancer medication from your body & fight fatigue

- Examples:
  - water, milk, juice, soup, smoothie
  - coffee, teas, soda (limit to 2 cups)





#### **Precautions to take**

- ☑ Wash your hands before and after preparing foods.
- ✓ Use a separate cutting board for raw meats.
- ✓ Clean countertops before and after use.
- ☑ Wash dish rags daily. Avoid sponges.
- ☑ Check expiration dates. Avoid expired foods.
- ☑ Hot foods can be left on the counter for max 2 hrs.
- ☑ Keep leftovers max 2 days in fridge or freeze right away. Do not reheat leftovers twice.



# Nutrition What to avoid?



Raw or undercooked meats, fish and eggs



Aged and unpasteurized cheese



**Yogurt labeled "probiotics"** 



**Raw vegetable sprouts** 



Cold cuts (unless heated before eating)



## Which foods or drinks can affect your medications?



**Alcohol** 



**Green Tea** 



Grapefruit, blood orange, pomegranate



**Natural products** 

Do not assume you can't have it... ask your pharmacist if you are not sure.



### When to contact a nutritionist?







- ✓ Supportive and palliative care program
- ✓ Pivot nurses
- ✓ Psychosocial oncology program (PSO)
- ✓ Spiritual care
- ✓ Jackie Aziz Adolescent and Young Adult Program (AJA)
- ✓ Cancer rehabilitation program
- ✓ Social services
- ✓ CanSupport
- ✓ Smoking cessation program



# Collaborative partnership with the services available

Your diagnosis can emotionally affect your family and friends.



Services are available for you and your family to improve any symptoms you may experience.



**Help** with managing your emotions and feelings (anger, sadness, isolation, fear)



Find solutions to support you along the cancer journey.





Speak to your medical team to learn the services available for you and your family members.



## Supportive and palliative care – by referral

#### The team of supportive care is intended to:

- Improve the quality of life of cancer patients and caregivers.
- Support and plan the care of patients dealing with advanced illnesses.
- Refer to community-based home support services as necessary.



The **needs** and **well-being** of patients **is a priority** and the clinic offers:

- Management of symptoms caused by cancer and treatments;
- ✓ Pain management;
- ✓ Medical cannabis





## **Pivot Nurses – by referral**

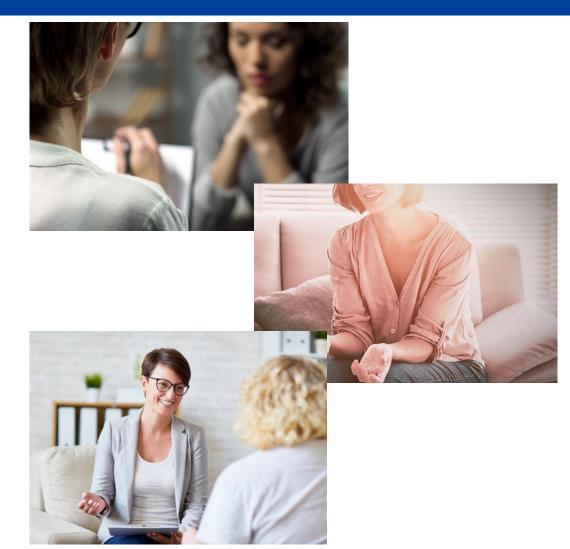
- Management of patients with specific and complex needs under active treatment.
- Helps the patient navigate through the hospital system.
- Guide the patient in organizing their care and services, direct them to other health professionals or community resources.
- Provides support to patients and their family members.





## Psychosocial oncology – without referral

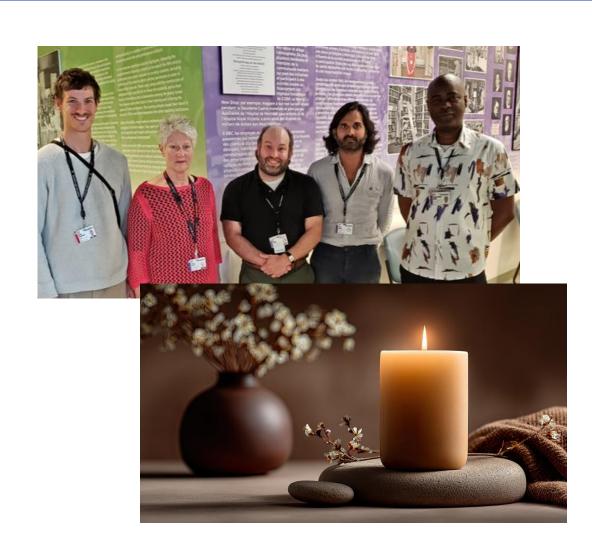
- Professional team to support adults with cancer-related concerns or stressors (for example fears of cancer recurrence, return to work).
- Psychosocial oncology is addressed to:
  - ✓ Adults 18 years and over, recently diagnosed with cancer and on active treatments.
  - ✓ Primary caregivers of a family member with cancer.
  - ✓ Children (aged 18 or younger) of a parent with cancer.





## Spiritual care - without referral

- Available daily:
  - ✓ 8 am to 8 pm
  - √ 8 am to 4 pm (on weekends and holidays)
- Offers spiritual, emotional, and religious support to patients and their families.
- Responds to all patients in the greatest respect of their beliefs, values, or tradition.





## Jackie Aziz Adolescent and Young Adult Program (AJA) – by referral

- Provides comprehensive support for young cancer patients aged 15 39 years old.
- Provides education and support adapted to your situation.
- Connects you with services and resources in the hospital and community.
- Organizes group meetings and activities specifically for young adults like you.
- A cancer diagnosis can affect many areas of a young person's life:
  - ✓ School

✓ Finances

✓ Work

✓ Body image

✓ Relationships

✓ Sexual health

✓ Fertility

✓ Spiritual beliefs





« J'ai toujours voulu effectuer des changements positifs. »

"Effecting positive change is all I ever wanted to do."

- Jackie Aziz

<sup>\*</sup> If you are in this age category, please come see us at the end of this session.



## Cancer rehabilitation program – by referral

- Located: Montreal General Hospital (temporary)
   (1650 Cedar Avenue, Montreal, QC H3H 1V6 10th floor Livingston Hall)
- This program develops specialized treatment plans to help patients feel their best.
- Managing cancer-related symptoms, eating well, and exercising are some of the ways this is accomplished.
- Other services:
  - Cachexia clinic
  - Lymphedema program





## Social services – by referral

- Provide emotional support.
- Help find community resources.
- Help manage financial concerns.
- Help with transportation issues.





## **Cedars CanSupport**



### Free services offered:

- Free wig and head cover program
- Complementary therapies
- MUHC reduced parking
- Patient parking vignette
- Cancer information resources
- Book lending services
- Financial aid
- Family doctor registration





**Cedars CanSupport** 



# Cedars Resource Center: D RC 1329

**Contact information** 

Phone:

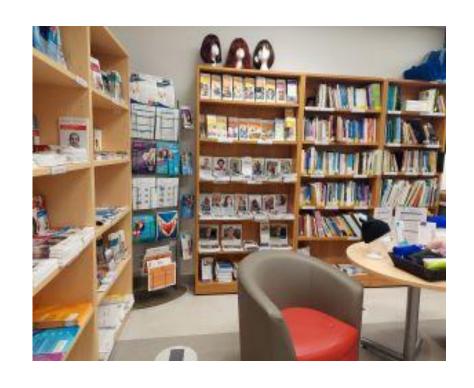
514 934-1934 ext. 35297 or 31666

Email: cedarscansupport@muhc.mcgill.ca

Website: <a href="https://cansupport.ca">https://cansupport.ca</a>

Facebook page:

@cansupportdescedres.cedarscansupport





**Smoking cessation** 



Smoking can impair treatment response and increase treatment-related toxicity

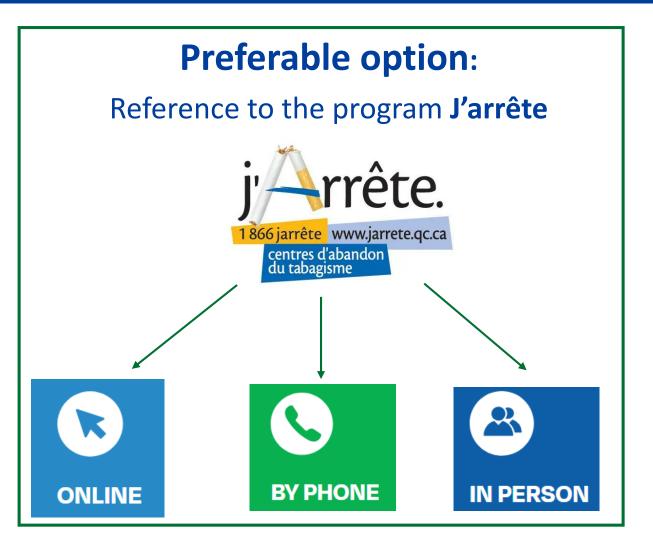
**Chemotherapy/Immunotherapy**: **1** risks of infection, and changes how your body processes medications.

**Radiotherapy**: • effectiveness of the treatment and increased risk of toxicity and side effects.

We highly recommend to stop smoking



**Smoking cessation** 



### Other options:

- ✓ Reference to the Smoking cessation program at the MUHC
- √ Family doctor
- ✓ Community pharmacy
- ✓ CLSC Quit Smoking centres





## Online resources

- > Canadian Cancer Society www.cancer.ca
- > Community Services Directory <a href="https://csl.cancer.ca/fr">https://csl.cancer.ca/fr</a>
- > American Cancer Society www.cancer.org
- > MUHC Patient Education www.muhcpatienteducation.ca
- **➤ Quebec Cancer Foundation** <a href="https://fqc.qc.ca">https://fqc.qc.ca</a>
- > The French National Cancer Institute www.e-cancer.fr
- > Proche Aidance Québec <a href="https://procheaidance.quebec/">https://procheaidance.quebec/</a>



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#### **IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ**

Information provided is for educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice or instructions of a professional healthcare practitioner or to substitute for medical care.

Contact a qualified healthcare practitioner if you have any questions concerning your care.

Developed by an Interprofessional
Improvement Team as part of the QI Project:
Redesign of New Patient Orientation
Cancer Care Mission, MUHC
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