

1 | the problem

1.1 | rapidly dividing cancer cells are resource intensive tissues

1.2 | they evolved to induce blood vessels within them

2 | complexities

2.1 | increased vessel volume means you need to balance with creation of new blood cells

3 | why not all cancers

3.1 | if some cancers reproduce slowly enough, then their cells may be able to get enough nutrients through diffusion

3.2 | angiogenic switch

3.2.1 | when a tumor gets big/hungry enough to need blood

4 | how it happens

4.1 | cells in the center of a mass start to starve of nutrients and oxygen

4.2 | creates a region of hypoxia (lack of oxygen)

4.3 | surrounding cells begin recruiting blood vessels

4.4 | if the blood vessel is close enough, then the tumor may keep spreading

4.5 | if the blood vessel is too far or too slow, then the cells may start dying and the cancer may go away