

A **fever during cancer treatment** can be a serious concern and should **always be reported to your doctor right away**, especially if you're undergoing chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or radiation. Here's what you should know:

Why Fevers Happen During Cancer Treatment

1. Low White Blood Cell Count (Neutropenia)

- Chemotherapy and some targeted therapies can lower neutrophils (a type of white blood cell), weakening your immune system.
- This makes it easier to get infections that cause fevers.
- **This is called febrile neutropenia**, and it's a medical emergency.

2. Infections

- Cancer patients are more susceptible to bacterial, viral, or fungal infections.
- Even minor infections can become serious quickly.

3. Treatment Side Effects

- Some therapies, especially **immunotherapy** (like checkpoint inhibitors), can trigger **immune-related fevers** without infection.
- Radiation can also cause localized fever depending on the treatment area.

4. Cancer Itself

- Some cancers (especially lymphomas or leukemias) can cause fevers as part of the disease process.
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When to Call Your Doctor

You should **seek immediate medical attention** if:

- Your temperature is **100.4°F (38°C)** or higher and you're on treatment.

- You feel **chills, shaking, or sweating**.
 - You have **sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, pain when urinating**, or any new or worsening symptoms.
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Q What Your Doctor May Do

- Blood tests (especially a **CBC**) to check white blood cell counts.
 - Blood, urine, or imaging tests to find the source of infection.
 - Hospital admission for **IV antibiotics**, especially if neutropenic.
 - Adjust or delay treatment if needed.
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1 How to Reduce Infection Risk

- Practice good hand hygiene.
 - Avoid crowded places or sick people during periods of low immunity.
 - Monitor your temperature regularly.
 - Avoid raw or undercooked foods.
 - Follow any specific precautions from your care team.
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