

# OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND... **NOT THIS TIME!**



*Did you know?*

**One of the most dangerous side effects of chemotherapy cannot be seen?**

**That's right, a low white blood cell count, or neutropenia, puts cancer patients at a higher risk for getting an infection.**

**An infection in people with cancer is an emergency.** Be prepared, and remember the following three things during chemotherapy:

1. Treat a fever as an emergency, and call your doctor right away if you develop a fever.
2. Find out from your doctor when your white blood cell count will be the lowest because this is when you are most at risk for infection.
3. If you have to go to the emergency room, it's important that you tell the person checking you in that you have cancer and are receiving chemotherapy. If you have an infection you should not sit in the waiting room for a long time. Infections can get very serious in a short amount of time.



Learn more at: [www.cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections)

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control



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