Matyson Kleinschmidt

Mrs. Ippensen

English Composition

7 March 2014

Cancer

Many people around us have a disease of cells in their body called cancer. There are over 200 types of cancer that affect people’s lives every day. People always have a lot of questions about cancer. “How does it start?” or “How does cancer spread to other parts of the body?” or “What are the causes?” There are many ways that these questions can be answered.

Cancer starts with changes in one cell or small group of cells that start to divide and reproduce uncontrollably. This is because some of the genes have been damaged or lost which is called mutation. Mutations happen when a cell is reproducing. It can take a long time before mutations happen for a cell to become cancerous which is why most types of cancer are more common in older people (Cancer Research UK). Once cancer starts, it doesn’t necessarily stay in one particular part. It moves all over the body.

 How does cancer spread to other parts of the body? The cells with tumors have the ability to invade neighboring tissues and organs. It is also possible for cancerous cells to break free from the tumor and enter the bloodstream which spreads the disease to other organs. Cancer cells break away from the original tumor and spread through the bloodstream, forming new secondary tumors in organs (Lisa Fayed).

 There are many causes of cancer. Some are more popular or common than others which is why most people know about them. Tobacco, workplace chemicals, age, lifestyle factors, radiation, infection, immune system, and genetic background are some of the factors of causing cancer. Many cancers seem to develop for no apparent reason but certain risk factors are known to increase the chance that one or more of your cells will become abnormal and lead to cancer (Dr. Tim Kenny).

Some more causes are chemical or toxic compound exposures, ionizing radiation, and pathogens (Charles Patrick Davis). Tobacco smoke, nutrition, physical activity, and exposure to environmental carcinogens are estimated to be responsible for 75-80% of cancer diagnosis and death in the US. Pesticides, pollution, and industrial chemicals are also causes (Physicians for Social Responsibility).

 Not all cancer is deadly but it all leads to trouble. You have to go through many rounds of therapy and with some cancers you don’t even have enough time to do any therapy. Cancer can involve many surgeries. How cancer spreads through the body, what the causes of cancer are, and how it starts are only some of the questions that people ask. They are even the most common questions asked. The list can go on for all of these different topics. Doctors today are figuring out medicines to cure types of cancer and hopefully they keep finding more solutions so it can help many people around the world.

Cancer Research UK. *How Cancer Starts*. 24 July. 2013. Web. 25 February 2014.

Fayed, Lisa. *What is Cancer?* 17 July. 2009. Web. 25 February 2014.

Kenny, Tim Dr. *What Causes Cancer?* 14 June. 2012. Web. 25 February 2014.

Davis, Patrick Charles. *Cancer (cont.)* 21 January 2014. Web. 25 February 2014.

Physicians for Social Responsibility. *Cancer and Toxic Chemicals.* 2009. Web. 25 February 2014.