

Chemo-Kasper and his hunt for the bad cancer cells

Hello!

This is the story about the little Chemo-Kasper and his fight against the bad cancer cells.

But before we start, we want to explain what cancer cells are. look at the pictures on the following pages.

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Here is a picture of you. Imagine your body to be like a house. All around you is the skin - just like the walls of a house. Inside are rooms and corridors. One of the rooms is like a cave to hold your meals.

That is the stomach.

Your heart is in a smaller room; it pumps the blood, which flows through small hallways and pipes, which we call blood vessels.

Though you cannot look into *your* body, you may have heard sounds from inside. You will have heard your tummy, when you are hungry. Put your hand on your chest. Do you hear your heart bouncing?

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Just like the walls of a house are constructed out of several stones, your skin is made up by many small cells.

In fact everything in your body is made up of small cells: your skin is made of skin cells, your hair is made of hair cells and your blood has blood cells. These cells are so tiny that you cannot see them with your eye. That's why we drew a picture for you, so you can see what they look like. Can you detect the hair cells?

Of course it is not easy to understand cells when you cannot see them. Just think of the house: In your skin the cells fit together like bricks in the wall.

In the blood however, they flow along in the vessels. You may have seen your blood coming out of a wound when you injured yourself some time ago.

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In this picture you can see that usually all cells are very happy. They like each other and give each other enough space to live.

Here you can see that little baby cells are born and grow to become big. Actually, you grow because your body constantly makes new cells. Just like your hair grows and gets longer as your hair cells get new ones.

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But sometimes it happens that one cell turns out to be crazy, it is mean and teases everybody, because it doesn't want to live with the other cells in your body. Such a cell is called cancer cell. Can you see how bad it is?

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All the other cells are angry with the cancer cell. It bumps into the others and does not leave them alone.

A cancer cell does not care for any other cell. And do you know what the worst thing is? A cancer cell grows quickly and makes new cells, just like the good cells. But the new cancer cells are just as bad as the old ones. It does not take long before there are a whole lot of bad cells.

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They may stick together and will not allow any other cell to enter.

The other cells have a lot of problems with the bad cancer cells and do not know what to do with them. Most of the time they cannot do anything against them. Some times a lump of them gets so big that the doctor has to take it out of the body. That is what we call an operation. Maybe that happened to you, too.

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Fortunately some of the blood cells are equipped with special instruments to fight against those cancer cells. You can see them in this picture. When a cancer cell is defeated, the other cells are very happy of course. But when there are many cancer cells the good cells are not strong enough to fight all of them. This is when they need help. But who can help?

The doctors in the hospital have a helper called Chemo-Kasper.

And here is the story about the Chemo-Kasper. Listen very carefully:

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The Chemo-Kasper lives in the hospital. He stays together with all his friends in bottles. The friends are called: Chemo-Karen, Chemo-Kevin, Chemo-Chris and so on.

Once in a while the doctors come up to Chemo-Kasper and say: „Now we've got to work. There is this little boy who needs help. He has so many cancer cells in his body that his good cells can no longer fight them alone. This is a difficult job and we need all the help we can get.“

„Okay“ says Chemo-Kasper, „we are ready. Let's start.“

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The doctor takes a needle and fills it with the Chemo-Kasper-Liquid. All the little Chemo-men rush and want to help. Each one wants to be out there first to help the little boy.

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The little boy is in his bed and waits for his doctor. His name is Thomas. He has pulled up the blanket all the way up to his nose and is a bit frightened about what might happen. Thomas cannot see the tiny little Chemo-men because they are very small, just like his cells.

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The doctor carefully injects the needle in one of Thomas' blood vessels and sends all the chemo men into Thomas' body. Chemo-Kasper is the first one to arrive in Thomas' veins. „Follow me!“ He shouts and runs as quickly as possible. All the good cells tell him how much they appreciate his help. „We have to get rid of the cancer cells“, they say.

The cancer cells get frightened and try to hide themselves or run away.

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All the other cells are busy helping Chemo-Kasper and his friends to find the cancer cells). *Chemo-Kasper and his friends* swallow the bad cells one by one. See how happy the other cells are..

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But there is a problem: the Chemo-men cannot see so very good. You may have noticed that they are wearing glasses in order to detect the cancer cells.

But sometimes they are so hectic, that they stumble over their own legs and lose their glasses. In these moments they cannot distinguish between good and bad cells. This is why they sometimes also swallow some of Thomas' good cells.

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Look, they have eaten some of Thomas' hair cells. You can see that Thomas is losing his hair. Thomas is very surprised and does not like that. It is a very weird feeling when his hair started falling out. But he knows that his hair cells will grow new hair again pretty soon.

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It may also happen that some Chemo-men are getting lost in Thomas' stomach and destroy some of the stomach cells. It is horrible because that can make Thomas to feel sick and causes him to vomit

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When all cancer cells have disappeared the Chemo-men get tired, but are very satisfied. They leave Thomas' body. Nobody knows where they go to. Perhaps they go into the Chemo-land, where they produce new chemo-men.

Sometimes some cancer cells are able to hide themselves so well that the Chemo-men cannot find them. Can you see one on this picture?

This is why Thomas has to come back to the hospital and get Chemo-man-liquid until the doctor is sure that all cancer cells are gone.

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Did you like the story of Chemo-Kasper?

If so, close your eyes and just imagine how Chemo-Kasper and his friends can help you and your blood cells to fight against the *bad* cancer cells.