

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HAIR LOSS



Some types of cancer treatment can make your hair fall out. Here are some questions you might have before starting treatment.

Will my hair fall out?

Whether your hair falls out or not can depend on the type of cancer treatment you have. Some types of treatment, including chemotherapy, are likely to cause your hair to fall out.

Why does cancer treatment cause hair loss?

Cancer treatment attacks fast-dividing cells. Cancer cells are fast-dividing cells, but so are some healthy cells, like hair cells. This is why your hair might fall out.

How long will it take for my hair to fall out?

Hair loss usually starts a few weeks after you start treatment. Some people may lose all of their hair, others may find it gets thinner or falls out in patches. It doesn't usually fall out all at once.

Will I lose all my hair?

If you're having chemotherapy this can affect the hair all over your body, including your arms, legs and pubes. If you're having radiotherapy or proton beam therapy then only the hair in the area that's being treated will be affected – not all of your body hair.



What about my eyebrows and eyelashes?

If you have chemotherapy this can mean that all the hair on your body falls out – this can include your eyebrows and eyelashes as well.

How can I prepare for hair loss?

Some people might like to cut their hair short or shave their head. Others might want to wait until it starts falling out. You might want to try wearing a wig, hats or headscarves, or you might not want to cover your head at all – it's completely up to you and what makes you feel most comfortable.

When will my hair grow back?

Your hair will usually start growing back after you've finished treatment but it can sometimes start growing back during treatment as well.

Will my hair definitely grow back after cancer treatment?

It's likely that your hair will grow back but some people might find that their hair grows back very thin or it may come back in patches. You can speak to your care team if you're worried about this happening.



Patient Information Forum

You can find more information on hair loss, including tips from young people at www.teenagecancertrust.org/hair-loss