



Newsletter

CANCER CONSULTANTS OF AMERICA

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CANCER AND UNDERSTANDING®

Cancer Answers

Can Bacteria Cause Cancer?

The quick answer is a confident, yes! Indeed, bacteria can cause cancer. Several types of microorganisms are known to cause a variety of cancers. In most cases, strong links have been established regarding the specific type bacteria and the infected organ within the body. The more commonly known cancers linked to bacteria are gastric (stomach) cancer, colorectal cancer, cervical cancer, and cancer of the gallbladder. In most cases, the bacteria indirectly cause cancer due to the body's inflammatory response as a result of the microbial infection. In the Cancer Consultants of America [March 2026 newsletter](#), the Cancer Answers section explains how inflammation is connected to cancer development. In the newsletter, inflammation is described as being like gasoline to a fire. This analogy is to serve as an example of how inflammation promotes cancer development. In a smaller number of cancers, certain bacteria have a more direct role in causing cancer due to the toxins that are released by the bacteria at the site of infection. These toxins are substances known to directly alter the mechanisms within a human cell leading to the development cancer characteristics.

The medical community knows that several different cancers are caused by bacteria, however some of these cancers are better understood than others. Stomach cancer is a malignancy that is broadly studied within the medical community. The primary culprit for this form of cancer is *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*). This bacterium gets introduced to the stomach through the consumption of contaminated food and liquids. When it reaches the stomach, the microbe burrows into the stomach lining in an effort to avoid exposure to the harmful stomach acid. For additional protection, the *H. pylori* secretes an enzyme named urease that neutralizes stomach acid. The bacterium also releases a protein named CagA which goes directly into the cells of the stomach. This protein disrupts the regulated growth cycle of the stomach cells and causes the cells to develop properties of uncontrollable growth. This abnormal cellular activity and uncontrollable growth satisfies the very definition of cancer.

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Another bacterium known to cause cancer is *Chlamydia trachomatis* (*C. trachomatis*). This microorganism is better known as "Chlamydia", a common sexually transmitted bacterium. As a result of chronic exposure and untreated infections, this bacterium can cause inflammation within the tissues of the genital tract. Chlamydia can enter the cells that are lining the genital tract and inhibit the function of an important tumor-suppressing protein named p53, which is arguably the most important protein in human cells. In the absence of a functional p53 protein, cells are unable to suppress their own uncontrollable growth. Again, this uncontrollable growth is cancer. Furthermore, inflammation caused by *Chlamydia* can serve as a cofactor for the development of cervical cancer that is initiated by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), another common sexually transmitted infection that is caused by a virus.

Although cancer caused by bacterial infections is not commonly discussed among the general public, several research labs in the oncology community are actively investigating these forms of cancer. Improvements are being made in the areas of early detection, treatment options, and successful outcomes.

Submit your **Cancer Answers** topics to info@CancerConsultantsOfAmerica.com

We Are Available to You

Please contact us today if you would like more information about how our services can benefit you and your family.

Services:

- Individual and Family Cancer Education
- Medical Appointment Liaison Services
- Information Seminars and Public Speaking Events

Fun Facts – July

Cancer Awareness Month:

- Sarcoma and Bone Cancer (Yellow) 🟡

July 2 – World UFO Day 🛸

July 4 – Hillbilly Day 🍷

July 16 – National Hot Dog Day 🌭

July 19 – National Daiquiri Day 🍹

July 25 – National Wine and Cheese Day 🍷🧀

July 30 – International Friendship Day 🤝

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