

Signs of an Oncologic Emergency

Malignancies and the treatments for them can result in life-threatening conditions. Those delivering the Strength ABC's program must understand the signs and symptoms of possible oncologic emergencies. For a full review, please see:

<http://www.cancernetwork.com/articles/oncologic-emergencies#sthash.3LvnxA7L.dpuf>

Below is a short list that is of particular relevance for breast cancer patients. If a Strength ABC participant reports **any** of the symptom clusters below, please ensure they see an oncologist immediately.

1. Unrelenting back pain with no obvious musculoskeletal cause.
2. Dyspnea, cough, chest pain, fever, peripheral edema, hoarseness, hiccups, or nausea.
3. Facial edema, dyspnea, cough, orthopnea, and edema of the neck and upper extremities OR hoarseness, dysphagia, headache, dizziness, syncope, chest pain, lethargy, or alteration in mental status.
4. Low-grade fevers, cough, and progressive dyspnea OR acutely ill with high fevers, chills, and dyspnea suggestive of pneumonia.