

A Good Mix —Activity & Cancer

There aren't many things that could be a good mix for cancer patients and cancer survivors. But believe it or not, physical activity is good for you, while you are in treatment or as a survivor.

Surviving cancer treatments such as surgery, radiation treatment and chemotherapy can leave an older adult feeling exhausted both physically and mentally. Cancer patients can also experience a decrease in their quality of life and physical functioning.

But getting more active has proven benefits for cancer patients and survivors. The research suggests that physical activity may help to:

- Reduce your risk of getting cancer again

- Extend the life of some cancer survivors

Physical activity during or after completion of treatment is safe and

can help you:

- Feel less tired & recover faster

- Have more energy

- Have better posture and balance

- Manage your weight

- Develop stronger muscles and bones

- Relax and reduce stress

- Improve your heart health

What counts as activity? It can mean going to a gym, swimming, and lifting weights, BUT those are not the only ways to be active. If you like to garden, walk, ride a bike, or dance — these are just some of the activities you can make part of your healthy and active life. You could also try an exercise class, such as yoga, tai chi, dragon boat racing, walking programs, or many other classes.

First, you need to talk to your health care provider. They can tell you if you are ready to exercise as well as how much, how often and how hard.

You too can make physical activity a fun and safe part of your new life. Being active helps all older adults lead healthier lives, including cancer patients and survivors. Start today. Call your health care provider to find out where you can begin, and start to take back the control of your physical and mental well being.

To receive a free brochure on making physical activity a fun and safe part of your healthy life, contact the Active Aging Canada office at: 1-800-549-9799, email info@activeagingcanada.ca, or mail a request to P.O. Box 143, Stn Main, Shelburne, ON, L9V 3L8