Neoplasm Encyclopedia Article

Neoplasm

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Neoplasm

Neoplasm results in the formation of both benign and, more particularly, malignant tumors or cancers. A neoplasm is a mass of new cells, which proliferate without control and serve no useful function. This lack of control is particularly marked in malignant tumors (**cancer**). The difference between a benign tumor and a malignant one is that the former remains at its site of origin while the latter acquires the ability to escape from its original location, migrate to another place, and invade and colonize other tissues and organs. This results in the death of the surrounding cells as the neoplasm grows rapidly.