

# Vocabulary

## The Case of Ms. Ima Well

Definition References:

1. The American Illustrated Medical Dictionary, <http://rex.nci.nih.gov>;
2. Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary, The Riverside Publishing Company, Boston, MA, 1994.

**Adenoma:** A noncancerous tumor.

**Angiosarcoma:** A type of cancer that begins in the lining of blood vessels.

**Aplastic anemia:** A deficiency of certain parts of the blood caused by a failure of the bone marrow's ability to generate cells.

**Basal Cell Carcinoma:** One of the most common types of skin cancer. It arises from the basal cells located deeper in the epidermis than squamous cells.

**Benign:** Not malignant; not cancerous

**Biological Therapy:** also called immunotherapy, uses the body's immune system, either directly or indirectly, to fight cancer. The immune system recognizes cancer cells in the body and works to eliminate them. Biological therapies are designed to repair, stimulate, or enhance the immune system's natural anticancer function. Biological therapy may be given after surgery, either alone or in combination with chemotherapy or radiation treatment. Most biological treatments are given by injection into a vein (IV).

**Cancer:** A term for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control. Cancer cells can invade nearby tissues and can spread through the bloodstream and lymphatic system to other parts of the body.

**Carcinogen:** Any substance that is known to cause cancer.

**Carcinogenesis:** The process by which normal cells are transformed into cancer cells.

**Carcinoma:** Cancer that starts in the lining or covering of an organ, e.g. skin cancer

**Colorectal:** Related to the colon and/or rectum.

**Diverticulitis:** A medical condition where small pouches are formed in the colon and then become filled with feces. This results in irritation, inflammation, and problematic abscesses.

**Endometriosis:** A disease where tissue from the uterus covers surrounding organs like the ovaries, bladder, intestine, or various other places. It is generally corrected by hormone therapy or surgery.

**Epidemiologist:** A scientist who studies disease incidence

**Glioblastoma multiforme:** A type of brain tumor that forms in the nervous (glial) tissue of the brain.

**Leukemia:** Cancer of the blood cells.

**Lymphatic system:** The tissues and organs that produce, store, and carry white blood cells that fight infection and disease. This system includes the bone marrow, spleen, thymus, and lymph nodes and a network of thin tubes that carry lymph and white blood cells. These tubes branch, like blood vessels, into all the tissues of the body.

**Lymphoma:** Cancer that arises in cells of the lymphatic system.

**Malignant:** Designating an abnormal growth that tends to metastasize; life-threatening

**Mastectomy:** surgical removal of the breast.

**Melanoma:** Cancer of the cells that produce pigment in the skin. Melanoma usually begins in a mole.

**Metastasize:** Transmission of disease from an original site to one or more sites elsewhere in the body, as in cancer.

**Neoplasm:** A new growth of tissue. Can be referred to as benign or malignant.

**Polyp:** A mass of tissue that projects into the colon.

**Polypectomy:** If colon cancer is found in a polyp, the polyp is often removed in an operation using a colonoscope.

**Radiation Therapy:** also called radiotherapy, involves the use of high-energy x-rays to kill cancer cells. Radiation therapy is a local treatment and affects the cancer cells only in the treated area.

**Rheumatism:** Disease marked by inflammation of the connective tissue structures of the body, especially muscles and joints. **Chronic**, a form of chronic joint inflammation, moderate pain, produces progressive deformity; **cerebral**, acute rheumatic fever marked by delirium, convulsions, and coma; **Herberden's**, rheumatism of the finger joint, marked by the formation of nodules

**Squamous Cell Carcinoma:** A common type of skin cancer that starts in the squamous cells located in epidermis. Squamous cell carcinoma is less common than basal cell carcinoma and spreads more quickly than basal cell carcinoma.