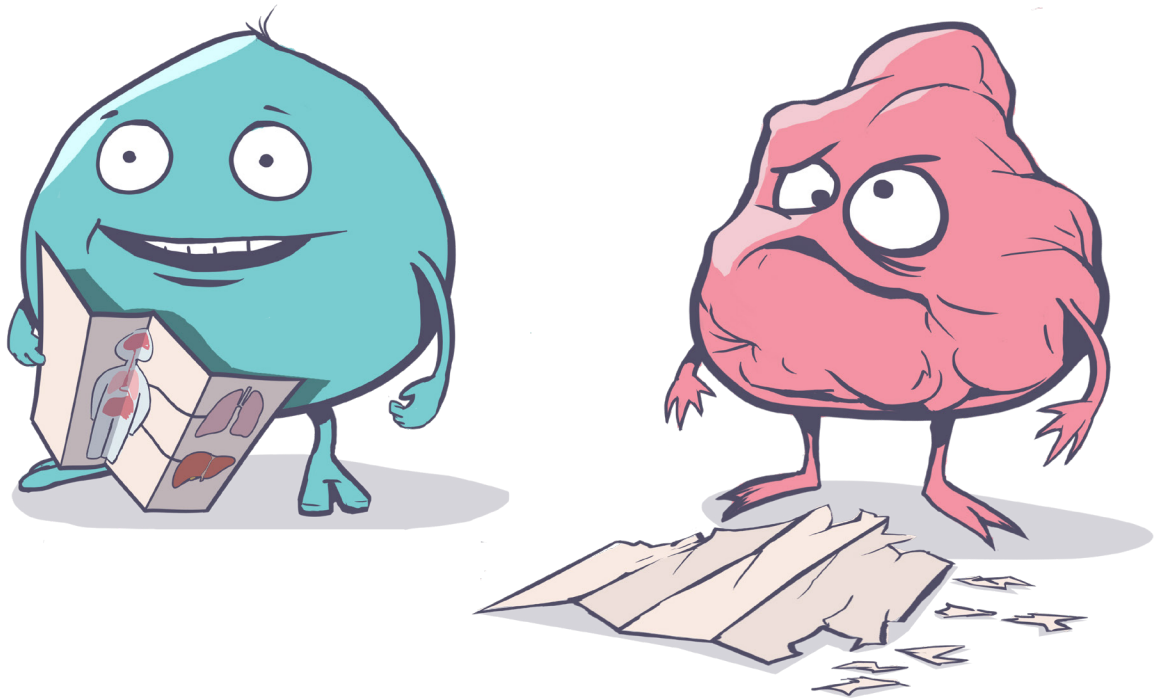


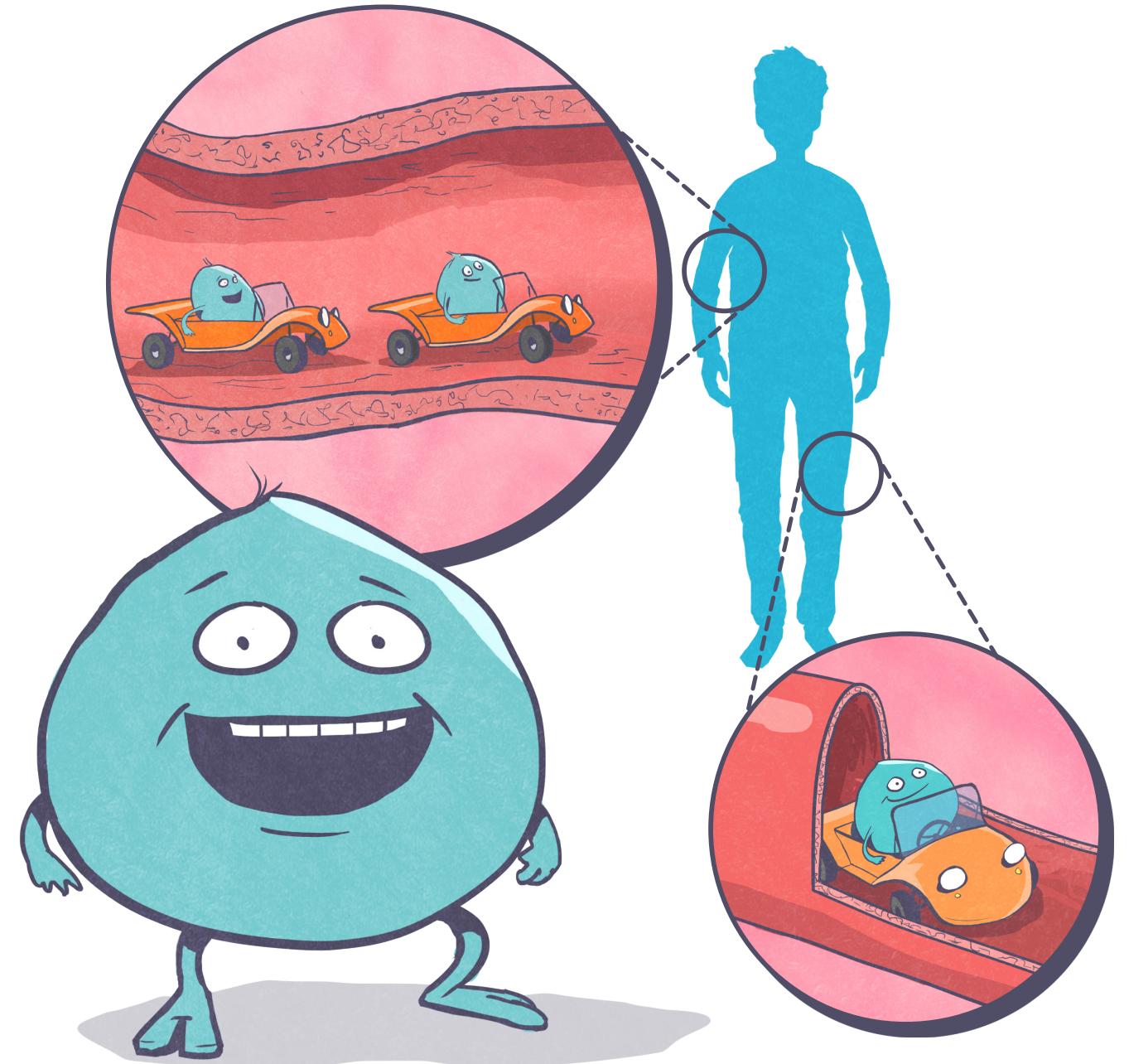
# What is Cancer?



by **UC Davis Child Life**

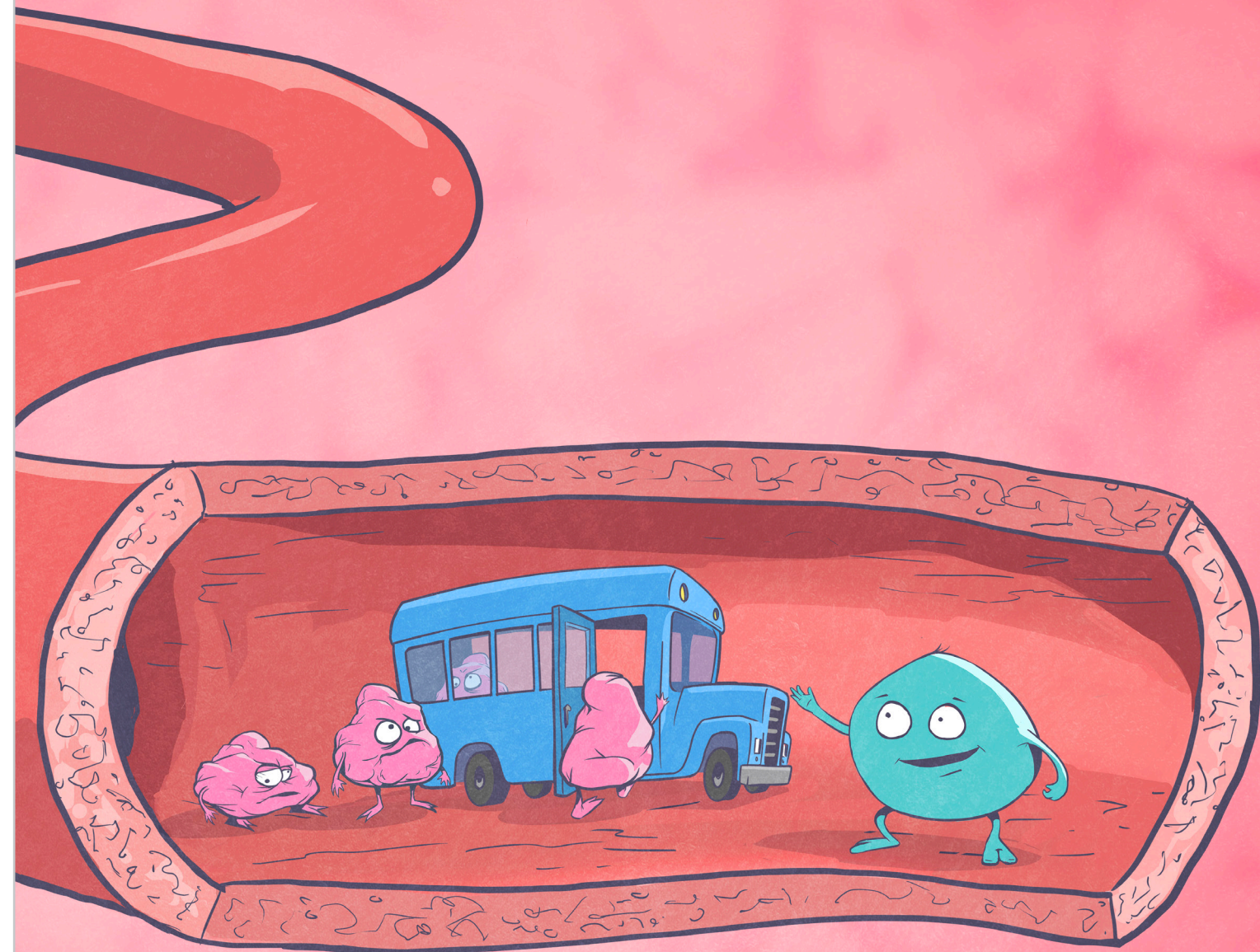
I am a **healthy cell**. I am so small you can't even see me. I live inside the human body and work with other healthy cells to keep the body working well. I really like having a **job** in the body.

I'm going to take you for a ride today. Come with me!



When someone has **cancer**, they have unhealthy cells in their body. These **unhealthy cells** are also called **cancer cells**. Cancer cells don't have a job to do in the body.

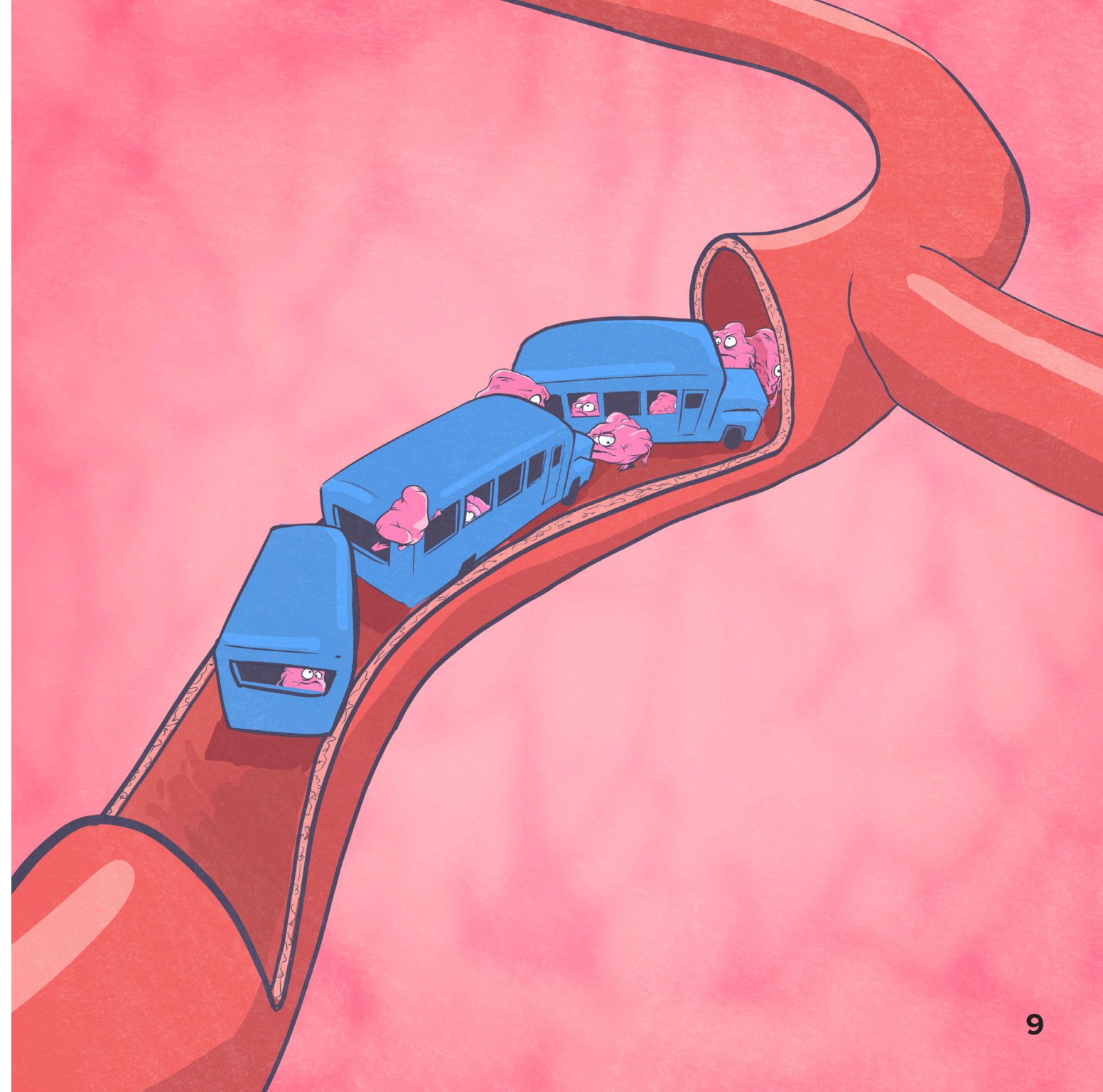
Look over there, you can see some cancer cells. They look different than healthy cells.



**Cancer** cells can grow and grow. They can get in the way of me and other **healthy cells** doing our jobs to keep the body working well.



Sometimes cancer cells clump together. This is called a **tumor**. A tumor can stay in one spot or can go to other parts of the body.

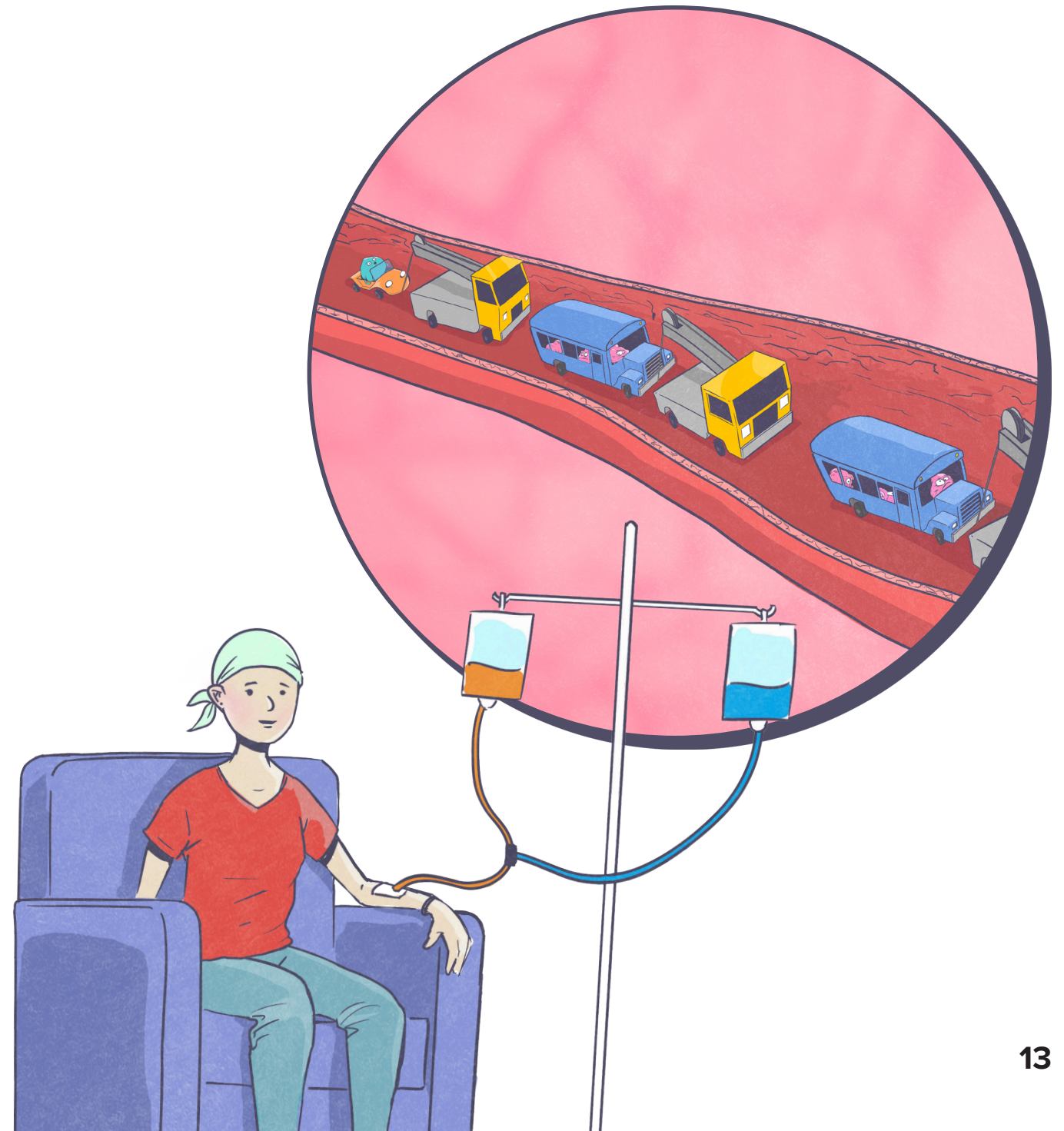


**Doctors** and their teams help people with cancer. They aren't sure why some people get cancer but they do know it is not like a cold you can catch from someone else.

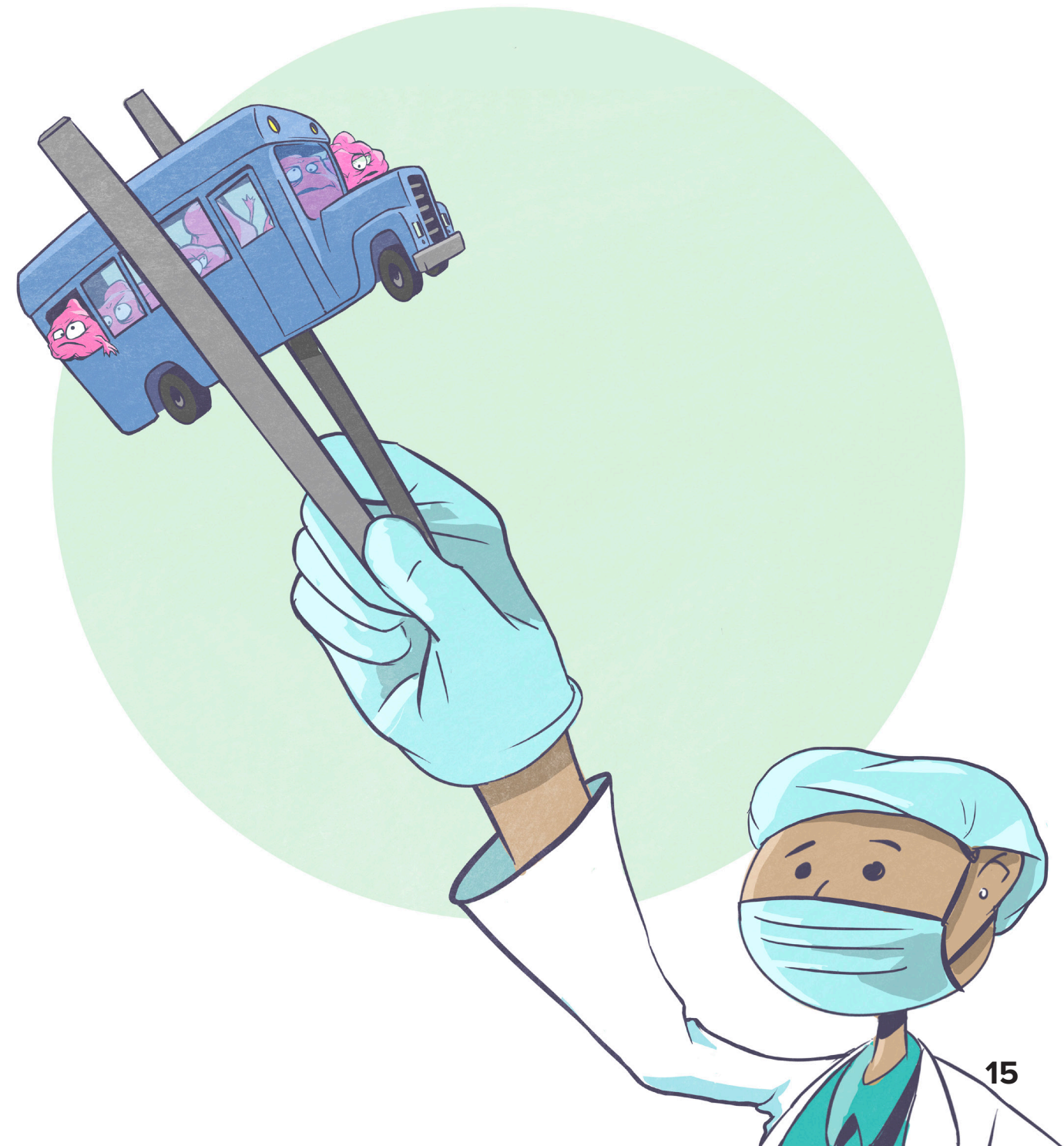


When someone has cancer, there are ways to try and make it go away. **Chemotherapy** is a medicine that goes after the cancer cells.

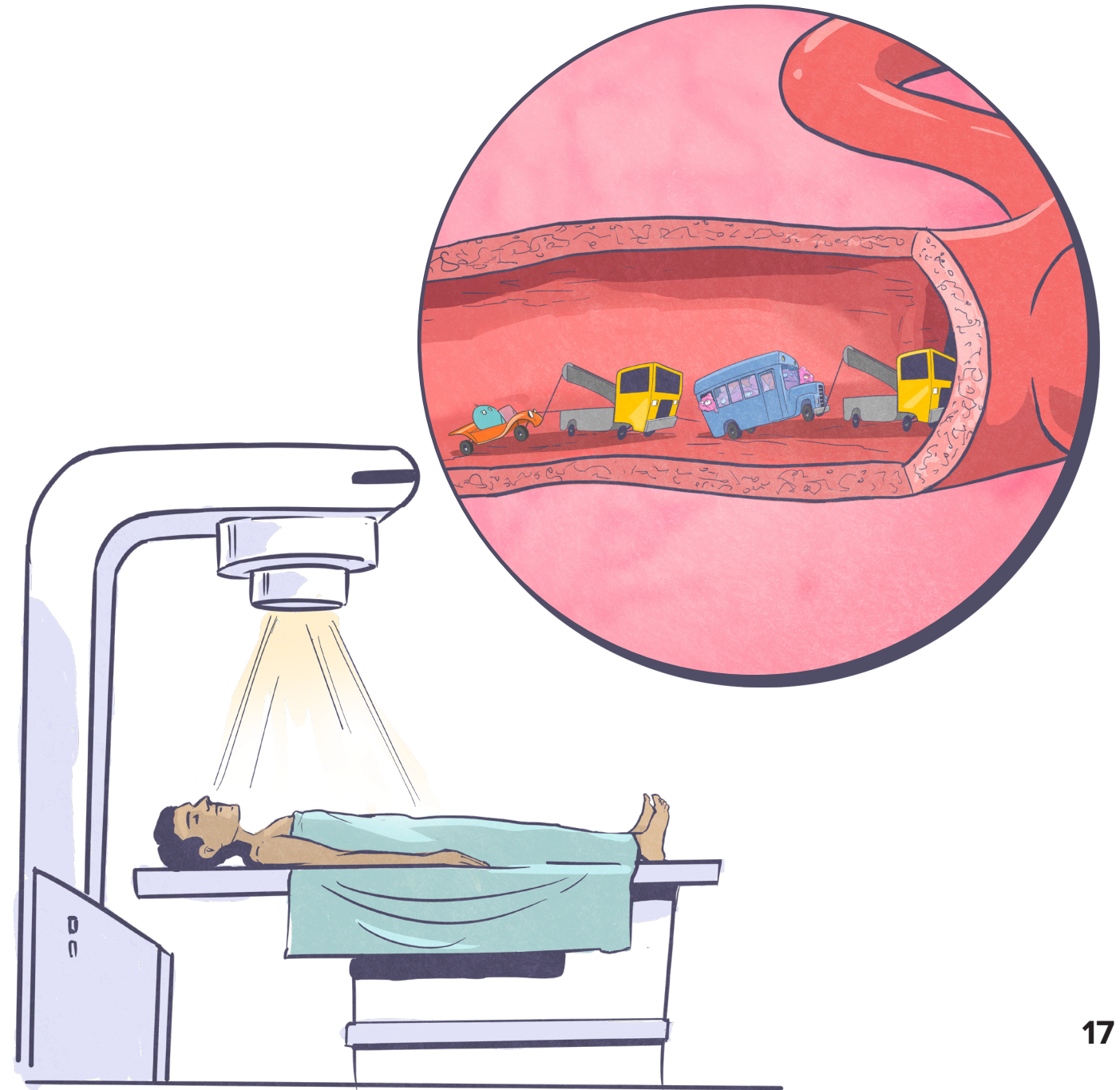
Chemotherapy can hurt some healthy cells by accident. If it hurts healthy hair cells, this may cause a person's hair to fall out. The good news is that the healthy cells and hair will grow back!



Some people with cancer may need **surgery**. Surgery is when the doctors try and take out as many cancer cells as they can from the body. Goodbye, cancer cells!

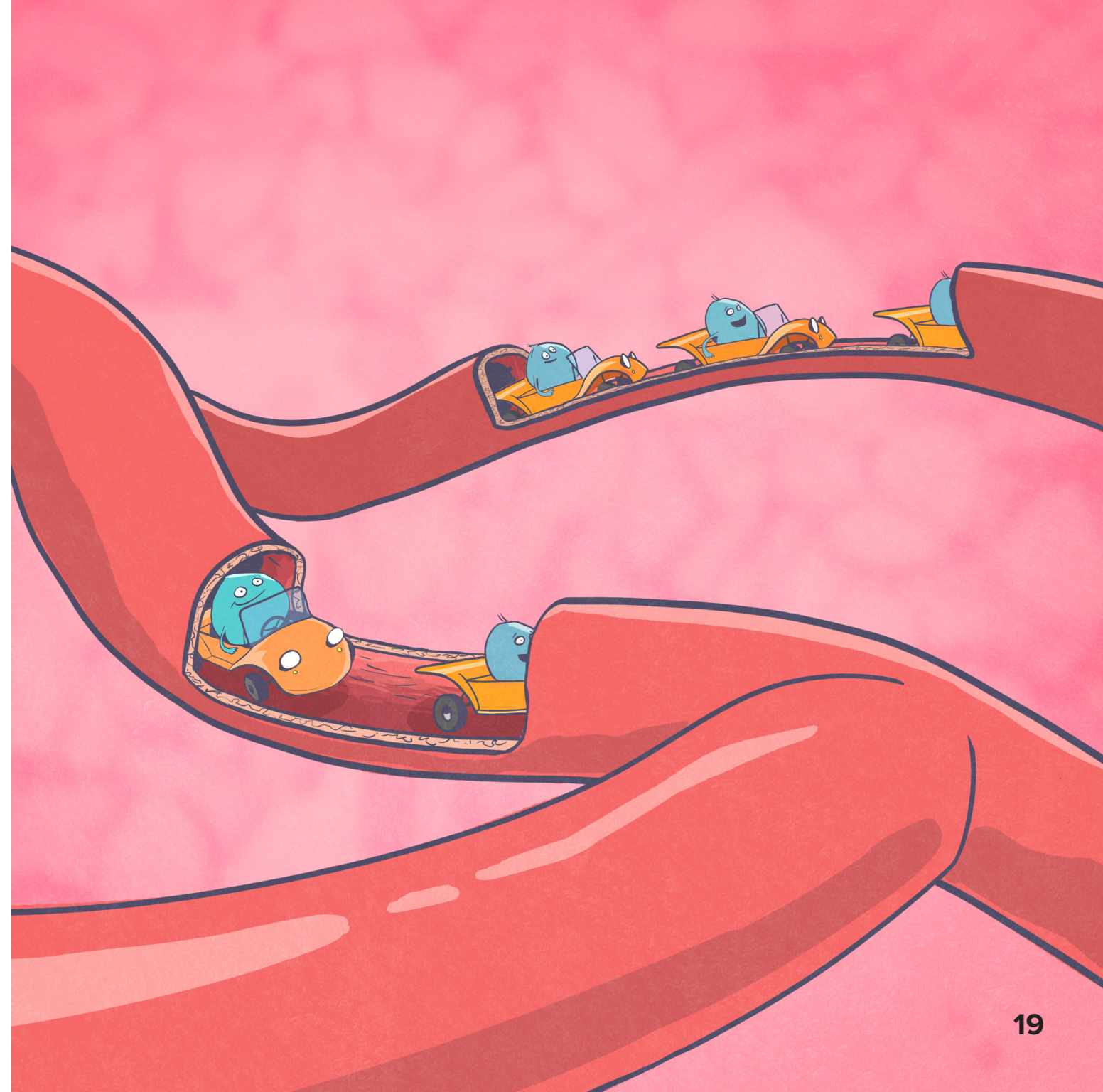


Other people with cancer need to have **radiation**. Radiation aims high powered energy on the part of the body with cancer. This can shrink tumors and get rid of cancer cells.

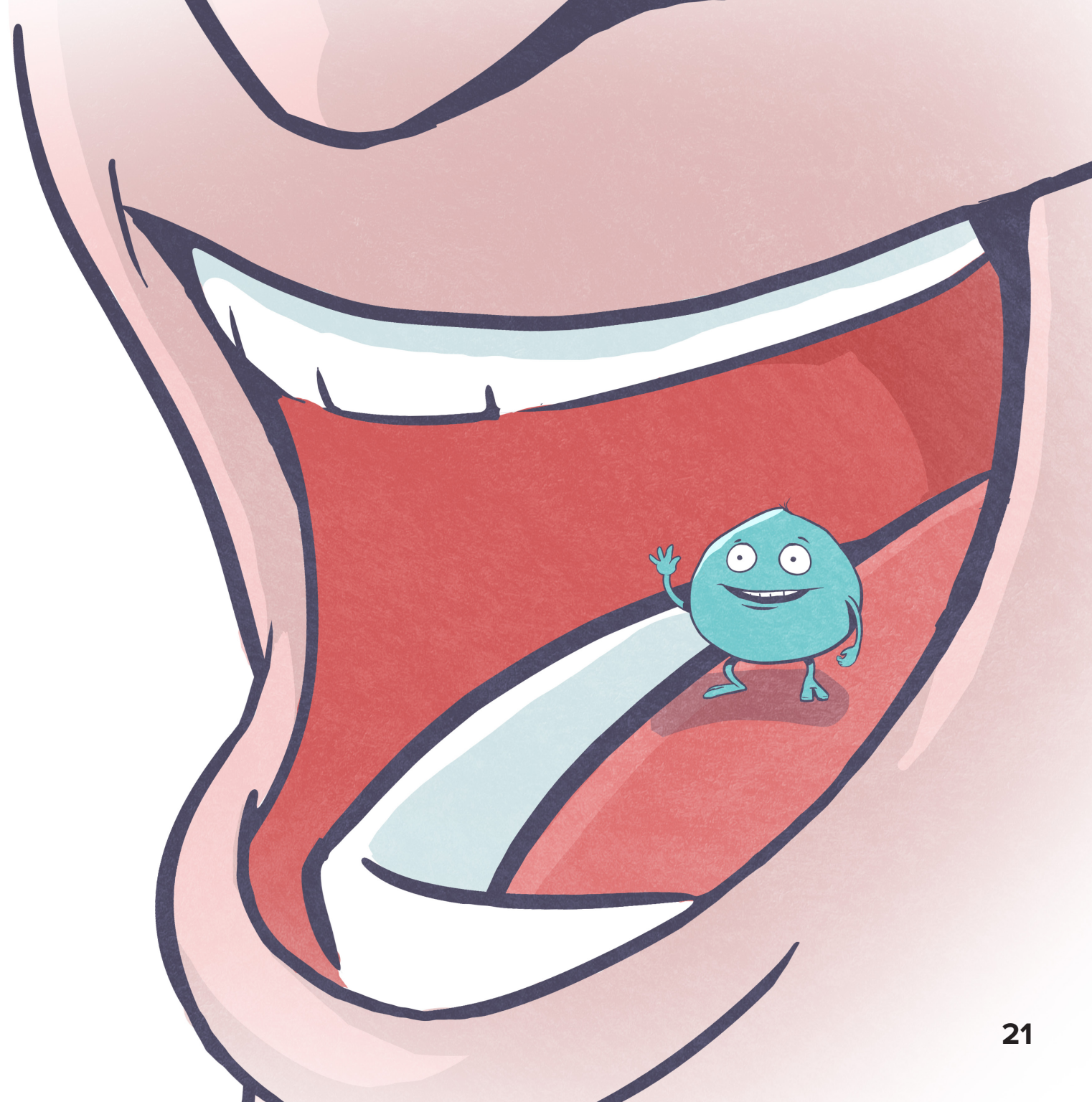


Chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation all help to get rid of cancer cells or slow down their growth. Any of these steps can take time and a person may feel tired or be a little uncomfortable.

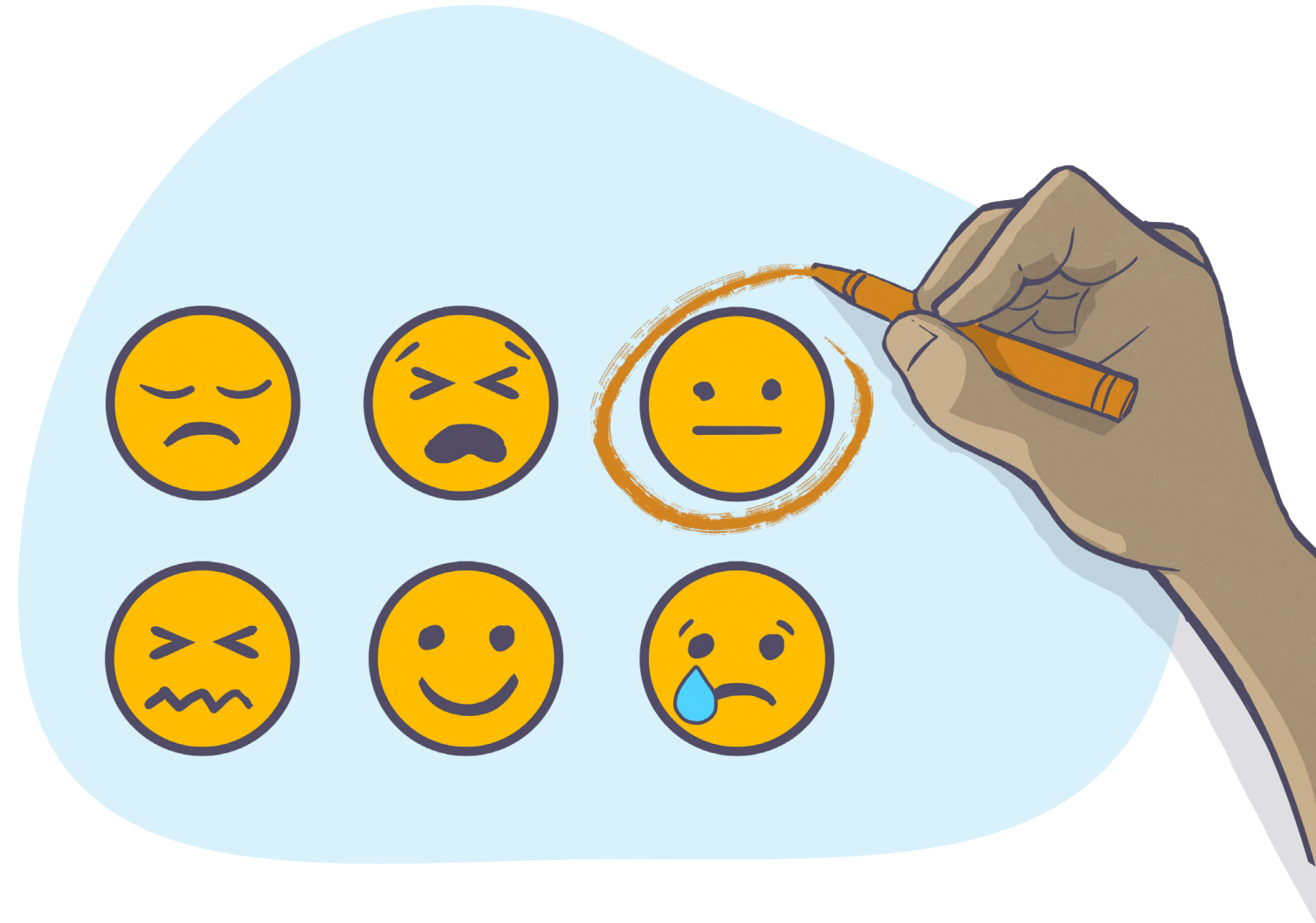
If things go as planned, the cancer cells get cleared out. This makes room for me and other healthy cells to do our jobs again, and we really like helping the body work well.



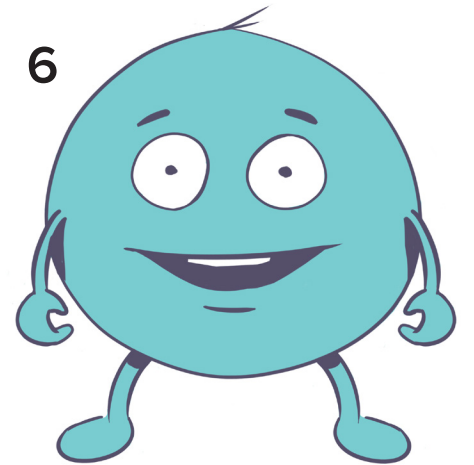
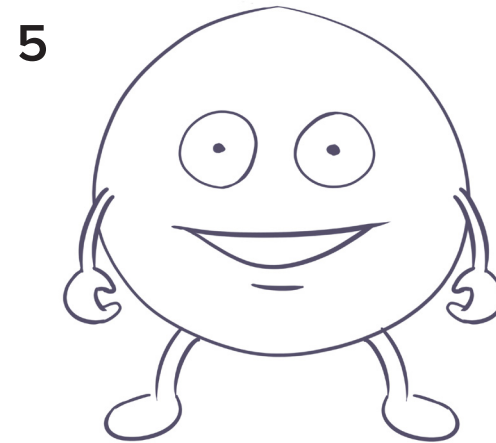
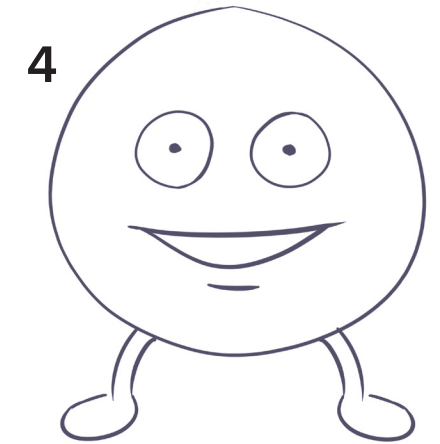
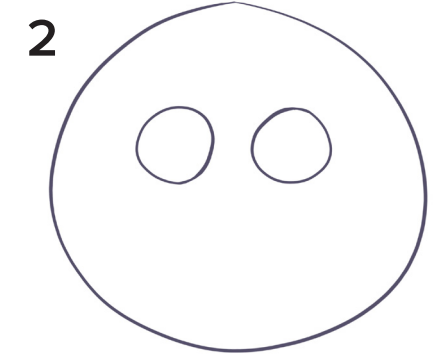
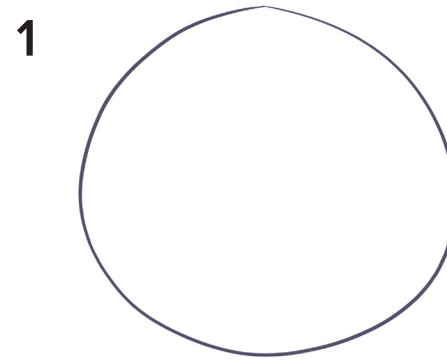
Thanks for coming along with me today! I hope you have learned more about cancer. It can be hard to understand and it is normal to have questions. Talking to your parents or other adults about your questions can be helpful.



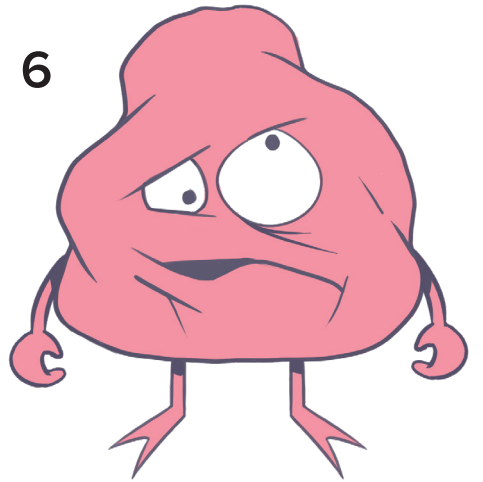
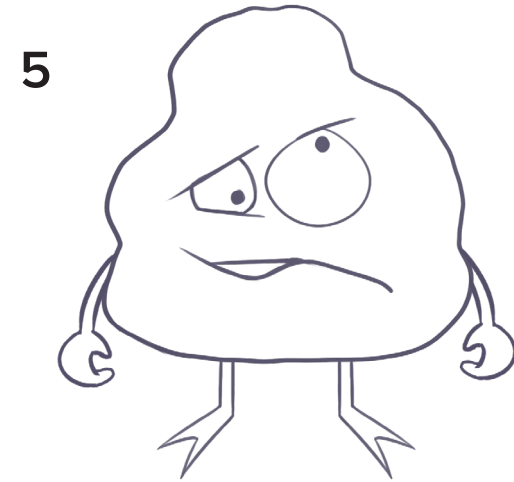
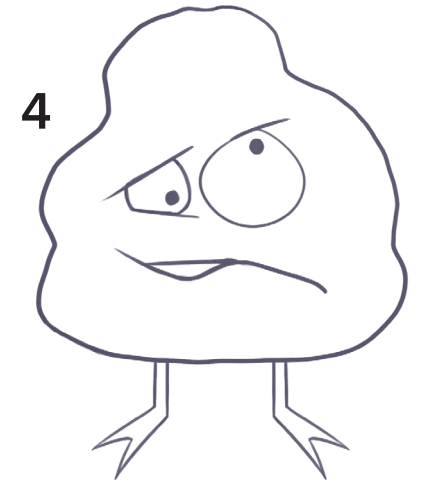
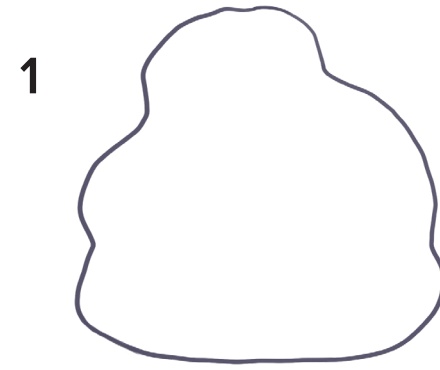
Also, you may have a lot of different feelings about cancer and that is okay. Sharing how you feel and finding things you like to do may help.



# How to Draw a **Healthy Cell**



# How to Draw an **Unhealthy Cell**





# Healthy Cells and Cancer Cells

By: Brad Steiger, MT-BC



Healthy cells know just what to do!  
They work together; a mighty crew!  
Healthy cells have a plan  
A place to be and a job to man

Cancer cells are plain confused!  
No plan, no map, no work to do!  
They grow too fast and take up space  
Cancer cells clog up the place!

To stop the spread of cancer cells  
We need help to keep the body well!  
Doctors have many tricks  
To stop the spread, to find a fix!

Chemotherapy is just one  
Way to get this tough job done!  
Medicine targets cancer cells  
And works to make the body well

Surgery is another way  
That doctors use to cut away  
Tumors or groups of cancer cells  
That make the body feel unwell

Radiation can help stop the spread  
It uses energy instead  
To zap cancer cells away  
To help the body feel okay

Ask your questions  
Feel you feels  
Take a deep breath  
Eat a healthy meal  
There's so much to know  
But know you're not alone  
There's so much to know  
But know you're not alone



**UC DAVIS**  
**HEALTH**

**COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER**

