

Mayo Clinic Minute: When cancer treatment hurts your heart

VIDEO	AUDIO
Jason	You've been diagnosed with cancer. You need to start treatment immediately. And you're not thinking about heart health.
Hector Villarraga, M.D. Cardiovascular Disease Mayo Clinic	"But now come the side effects of treatments, which can affect the heart. So we as cardiologists take care of the patients' hearts, while they receive medical treatment for their cancer."
Jason	It's called "cardio-oncology." And it includes teams of experts who provide cancer care, while also protecting a patient from heart disease years down the road.
Dr. Villarraga	"Cardiologists and oncologists working together to protect that heart. The patient will survive the cancer, but will also survive the side effects of chemotherapy."
Jason	Cancer treatments kill cancer cells, but also can damage healthy cells, including in the heart. This can lead to future heart attacks, arrhythmias, blood clots, high blood pressure or blood vessel damage.
Dr. Villarraga	"What we do is try to see if there are signals from the heart or from the vascular system that tells us, 'Hey, my heart is also suffering.'"
Jason	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.