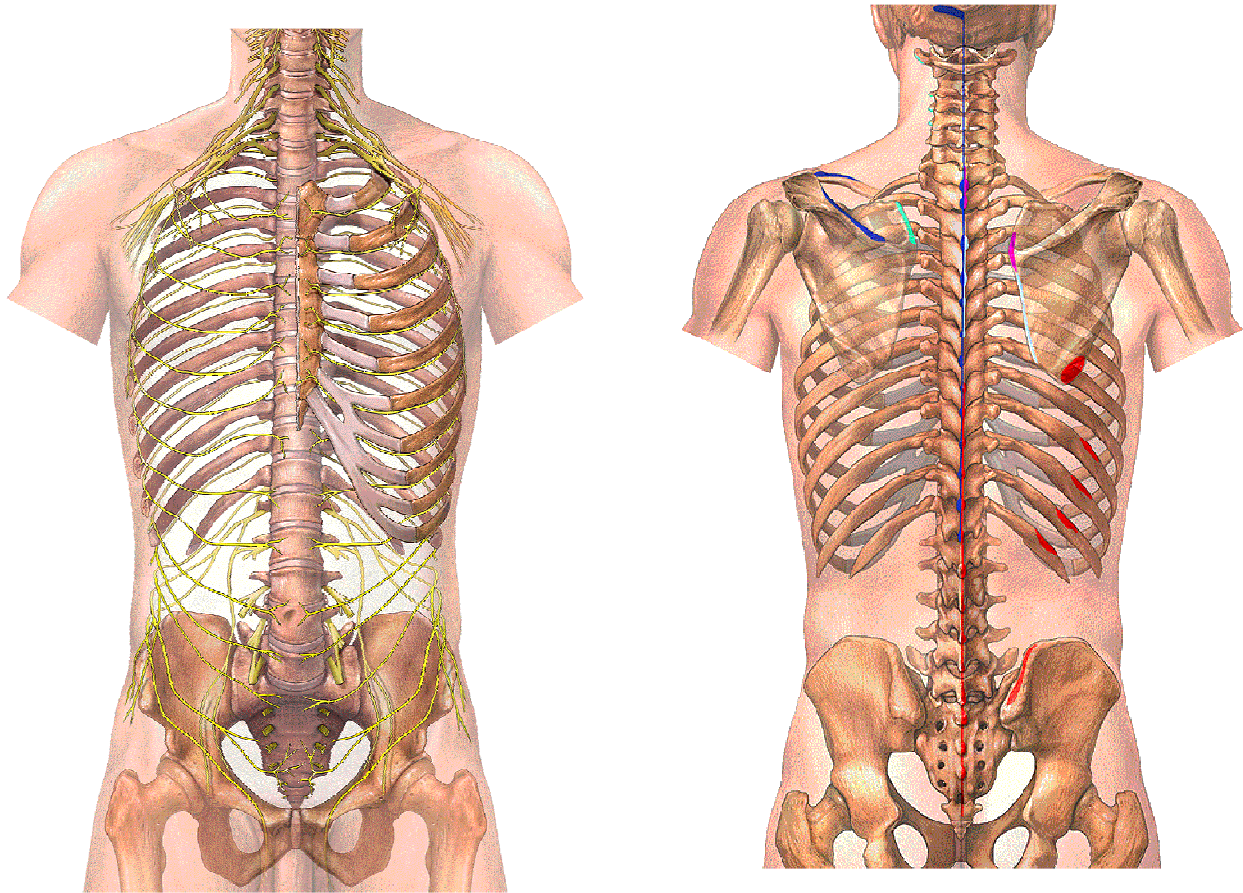


## Bone Metastases (198.5)



Many cancers may spread to the bone. The source of the original cancer is called the primary, and the area of spread is called bone (osseous) metastases. Almost any cancer can spread to the bone, but the most common are breast, lung and prostate cancer.

Radiation is commonly used to treat bone metastases to relieve pain and promote healing and strengthen the bone. If neglected some cancers may weaken the bone and lead to a break (pathologic fracture.) Certain drugs (biphosphonates) like Aredia or Zometa may be prescribed to help strengthen the bone.

Generally there are minimal side effects from bone radiation other than a little local skin irritation or more fatigue. Depending on the site of the radiation, there may be local side effects: neck or cervical spine (sore throat or hoarseness) back or thoracic spine (cough or swallowing problems) lumbar spine or pelvis (bowel irritation, diarrhea or bladder irritation.) If large or multiple bones are treated, the radiation can cause a low blood count, nausea or fatigue.

For more information go to web sites: [www.aboutcancer.com](http://www.aboutcancer.com) or [www.wellspringoncology.org](http://www.wellspringoncology.org)