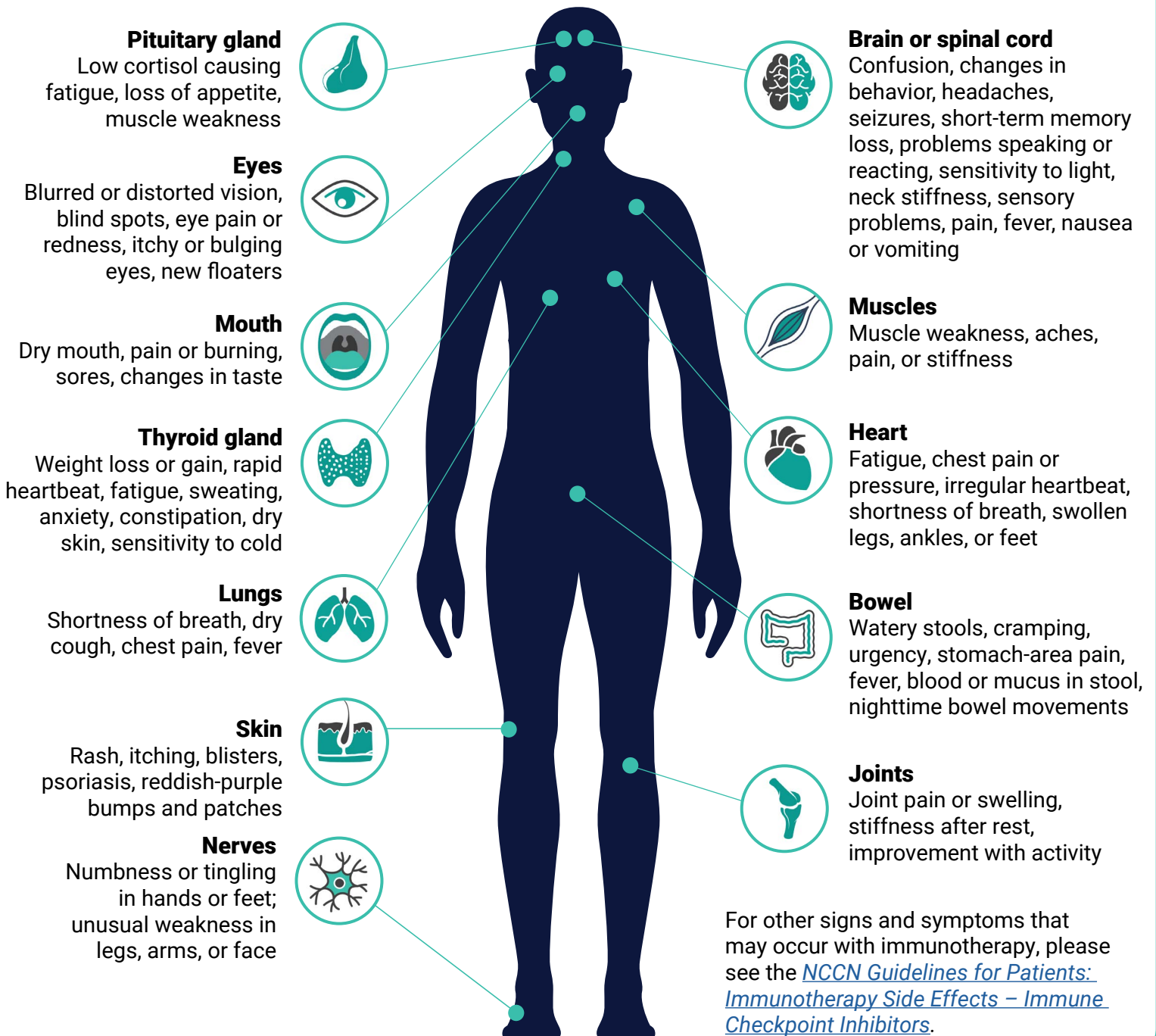





Understanding Immunotherapy Side Effects

Immune checkpoint inhibitors (a type of immunotherapy) offer a promising new way to treat certain cancers. But these medicines can cause your immune system to attack normal organs and tissues in your body, affecting the way they work. Serious side effects typically occur in less than 5% of patients, but certain mild side effects can occur in up to 30% – 50% of patients.

Contact your health care provider right away if you think you may be experiencing ...



What is immunotherapy?

-  Immune checkpoint inhibitors are designed to work with your immune system to treat certain types of cancer.
-  Immunotherapy works differently than traditional chemotherapy and can cause different kinds of side effects.
-  It is important to be aware of possible side effects and contact your health care professional right away if you experience any problems.



Ask your care team for an immunotherapy wallet card

This card lists your immunotherapy regimen, potential side effects, and contact numbers for your cancer care team.

A printable card is available from the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) website.

Did you know?

- No matter where your cancer began, side effects from immunotherapy can affect your whole body.
- Side effects may appear shortly after beginning treatment, within the first couple of months, or even after you finish treatment.
- Because many of these side effects can occur from other causes that would be treated differently, make sure your doctor knows you are or were on immunotherapy.
- You may be more likely to experience side effects if you are taking more than one kind of immunotherapy or immunotherapy combined with other types of cancer medicines.
- Many of these immune side effects are treatable. Your doctor may prescribe corticosteroids or other medications to help manage any problems.
- Rare but serious side effects can lead to death, especially if left untreated.

This information does not replace the expertise and clinical judgment of the clinician. If you think you are experiencing these symptoms, contact your health care provider today.

NCCN Guidelines for Patients® Immunotherapy Side Effects series
Available at [NCCN.org/patientguidelines](https://www.nccn.org/patientguidelines)

