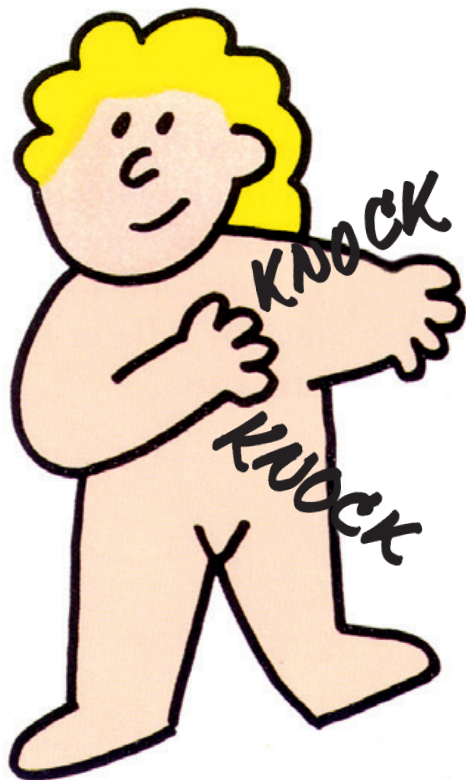
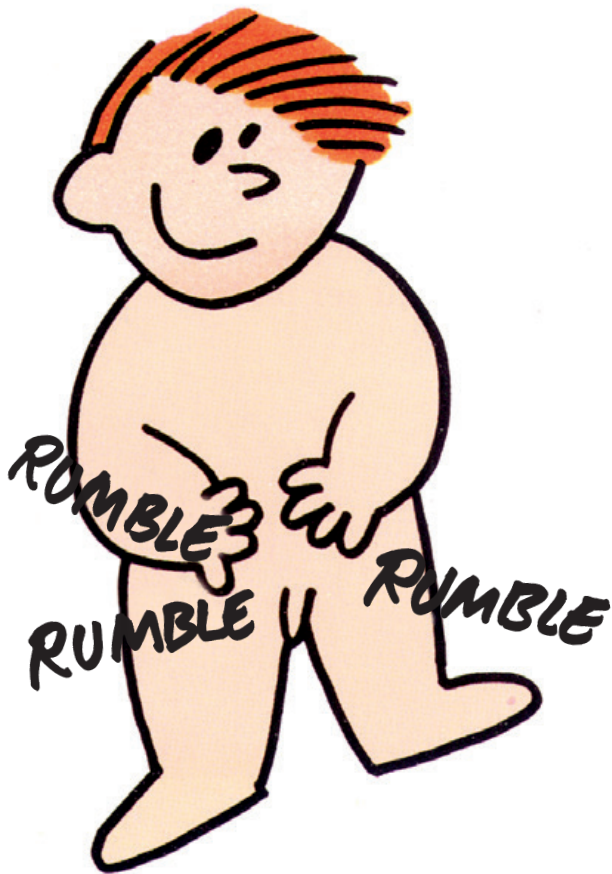


Hi there _____

I'm going to tell you a story about Casper, the Little Chemo-Man and his fight against the angry cancer cells.

But first of all, I'd like to tell you a little bit about what a cell is, what it's like, and how it looks – and in the meantime, you can look at the drawings.

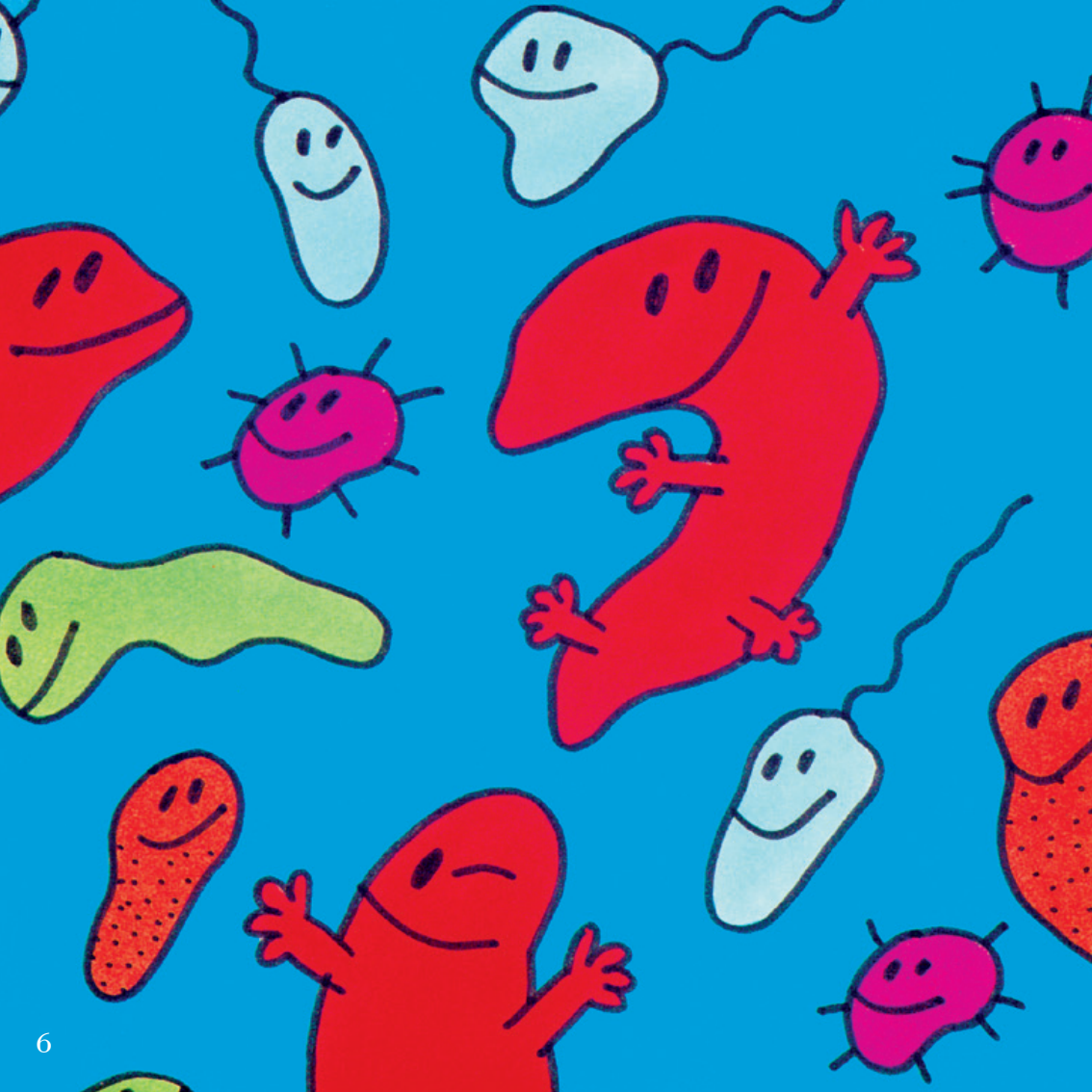


First, I have drawn a picture of you.

Try to imagine that your body is like a small house. Around you is the skin, like the walls around a house. Inside the skin, there are small rooms and corridors – just like in a house. There is a small cavern where your food goes when you swallow it: that is your stomach. The heart is a small room from where the blood is pumped around your body.

The blood flows through small canals or tubes; we call them veins.

Even if you cannot see everything that is inside your body, perhaps you have heard a rumbling sound from your stomach, and maybe you can feel your heart beat, if you put your hand on your chest, where your heart is.



Just like the walls of a house are built of bricks, your skin is made up of small cells.

Everything in your whole body is made up of small cells. In the skin, they are called skin cells; in the blood they are called blood cells, and in the hair, they are called hair cells.

The cells are so tiny that you cannot even see them – and that is why I have made a drawing of some cells – now you can see what they look like. Perhaps you can find the hair cells?

It is probably a bit hard to understand what a cell really is, since you cannot see it. But imagine that the cells in your skin are lying close to each other, like the bricks in the wall of a house.

Inside the veins, the blood cells are swimming around together. Have you ever hurt your skin, so that some of the blood cells came out?



All the cells are feeling good because they like each other and they have plenty of room.

On this drawing, you can see how the cells constantly make small, new cells that grow bigger all the time. The cells keep growing bigger, and that is why you grow and get bigger, too. You know how your hair can grow longer and longer. That is because the hair cells never stop making new little cells.



Sometimes, it might happen that one of your cells makes a new cell that is absolutely wrong. It is so angry that it does not want to be round any of the other cells in your body.

A cell like that is called a cancer cell. Can you see how angry it looks?



The other cells do not like the cancer cell. That is because it is a bully that won't leave the others alone.

But the cancer cell does not care. In a rush, it makes a lot of new cells, just like itself, who are also very angry, and eventually, there are lots and lots of them.

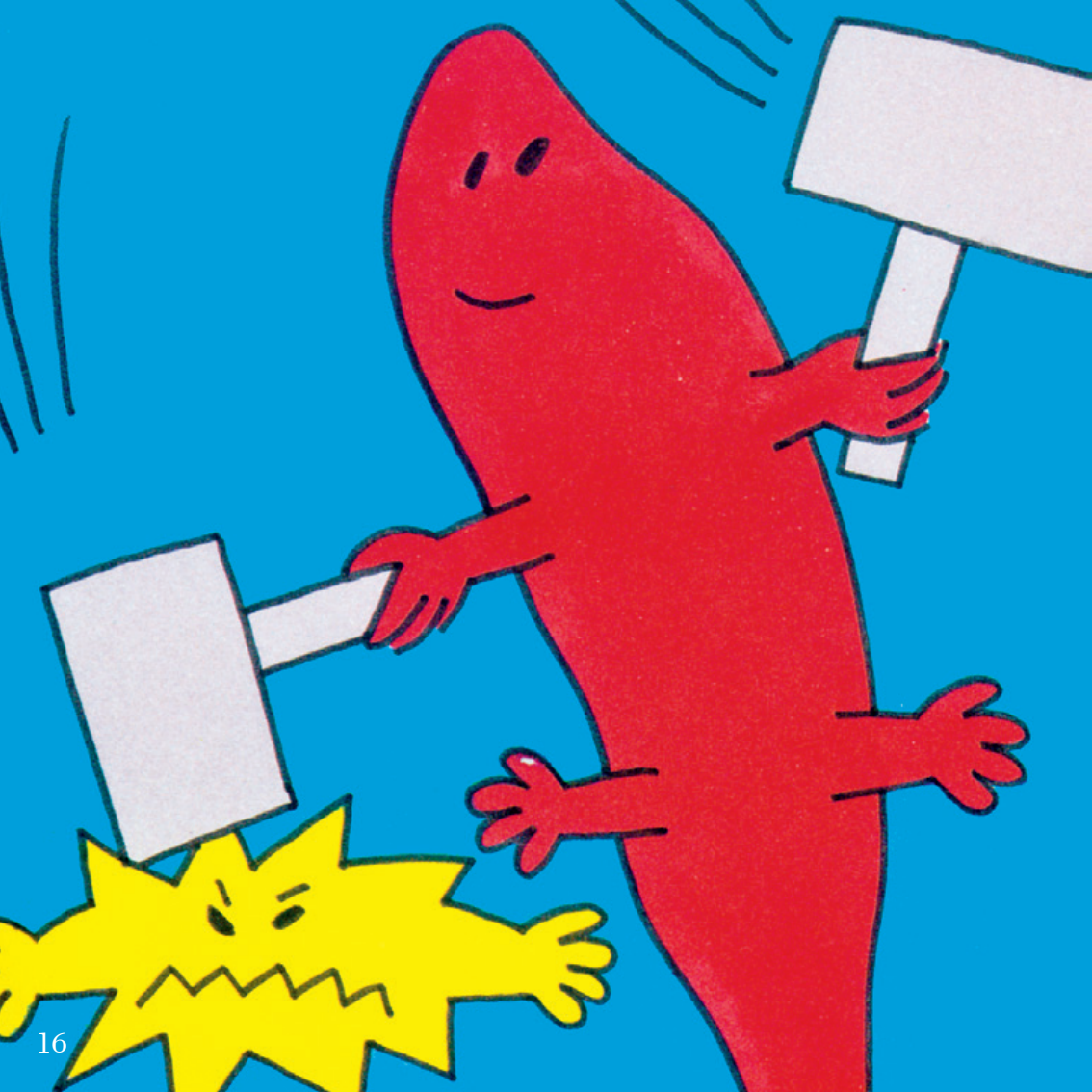


They bunch together in big crowds, building castles where they don't let the other cells come in.

Now the other cells are starting to get really mad, because what on earth are they going to do with all the angry cancer cells that do nothing but grow and grow?

Sometimes, the cancer cells find enough time to build castles so big that the doctor has to remove them.

Have you ever had a cavern so big that the doctor had to remove it?



As a matter of fact, some of your own blood cells are lucky enough to have some tools they can use to kill the cancer cells.

In the drawing, you can see how one of those blood cells can punch the cancer cell in the head.

The cancer cell will be completely smashed, but all your other cells will be happy.

It might be difficult to have enough time to punch out all the cancer cells, but in this case, your own cells can have somebody to help them remove the angry cancer cells.

And who's coming to help? That is what the story of Casper, the Little Chemo-man is about.

Now listen...



Casper, the Little Chemo-Man lives at the hospital.

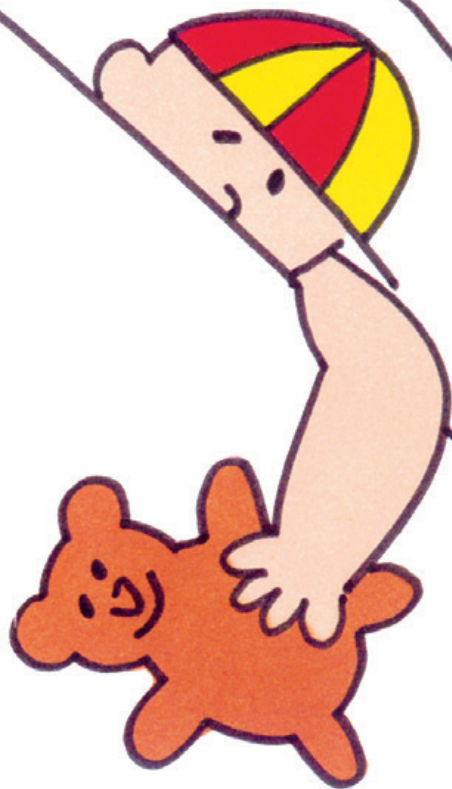
The doctor takes care of him, watching him in a bottle, where he is swimming around together with all his friends, Chemo-Cathy, Chemo-Kenny and many others.

Suddenly, one day, the doctor comes in, saying to Chemo-Casper: “It’s time for you to work now. I have met this little boy today, and he needs your help getting rid of the angry cancer cells who are going to build castles in his body. The boy’s own cells are working very hard to get rid of the cancer cells, but they would very much like it if you could come and help.”

“Very good,” answers Chemo-Casper,
“We’re ready: let’s get going!”



Now the doctor grabs a syringe, and he uses it to suck up all the chemo-men. They push and shove because they are eager to come out and help the little boy.



The little boy is lying in a bed waiting for the doctor.

The boy's name is Thomas.

He has pulled his duvet right up over his nose because he is a little worried about what is going to happen next.

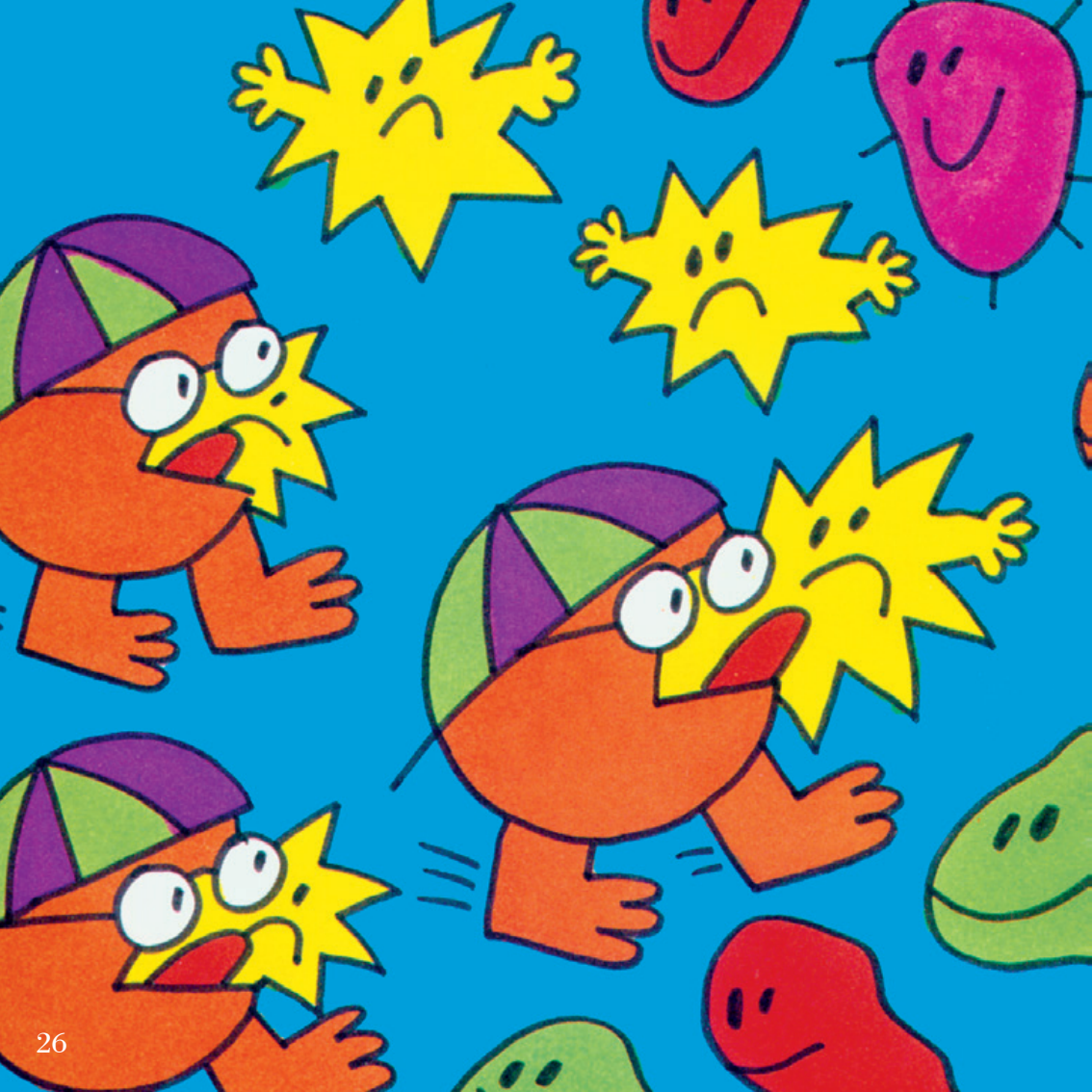
Thomas is not able to see the chemo-men inside the doctor's syringe, since they are so teeny-weeny, exactly like the cells.



Chemo-Casper is the first to arrive after the doctor has injected the chemo-men into Thomas.

“Follow me!” he shouts to the others, and then he rushes forward as fast as his little legs can run. Everywhere around him there are happy cells, shouting with joy to the chemo-men: “How nice of you to come and help us catch the angry cancer cells.”

But the cancer cells do not shout with joy. They are hiding, trying to escape the chemo-men.



Now the other cells block the way, so the cancer cells cannot escape.

Chemo-Casper and his friends snap the angry cancer cells one by one.

All the other cells laugh and shout, while the chemo-men keep on fighting the cancer cells.



But there is something special about the chemo-men; they do not see very well. Perhaps you have noticed that all of them wear glasses. This is so they can see where the cancer-cells are more easily.

Sometimes the chemo-men are in such a rush that they stumble. Then, they might lose their glasses, and if this happens, the chemo-men might accidentally bite into one of Thomas's good cells.



Now try to see what happened when the chemo-men bit into some of Thomas's hair cells.

On the drawing, you can see how Thomas can remove one hair strand after another.

He looks a bit surprised, but honestly, wouldn't it be weird to lose all your hair?

Luckily, the hair cells make lots of new ones, so the hair will grow again.



Another thing that's not nice is that the chemo-men sometimes happen to bite into Thomas's stomach, or cells inside the stomach, a bit too painfully.

How nasty is it when the chemo-men happen to bite the stomach cells? Sometimes it is so nasty that it makes Thomas feel so sick that he vomits.



When the chemo-men have gotten tired and fed up with all the angry cancer cells, they disappear out of Thomas's body. Nobody knows for sure where they go. Maybe they go to Chemo-land, where they can make new little chemo-men for the hospital to use.

Sometimes it might even happen that some of the cancer cells have hidden so well that the chemo-men have not been able to see them.

Can you find one like that in the drawing?

That is why Thomas has to go back to the hospital to get some new chemo-men until all the cancer cells have disappeared.



If you liked this story about the chemo-men, then try to close your eyes and imagine how Chemo-Casper, Chemo-Cathy, and Chemo-Kenny help each other fight angry cancer cells.

English Title:

Casper, the Little Chemo-Man Fighting the Angry Cancer Cells.

English edition:

Translated into English by Familier med kræftramte børn.

Impression:

2.000 issues, 2020.

Original Danish title:

Kemo-manden Kasper og hans jagt på de sure kræftceller.

Idea & Story:

Helle Motzfeldt.

First Danish edition 1991:

Familier med kræftramte børn in cooperation with Kræftens Bekæmpelse.

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Familier med kræftramte børn

Århusvej 195, P.O. Box 55, DK-8464 Galten, Denmark

Phone: + 45 8694 6930

E-mail: info@fmkb.dk

Internet: www.fmkb.dk

Familier med kræftramte børn is

The Danish Childhood Cancer Parent Organization.

