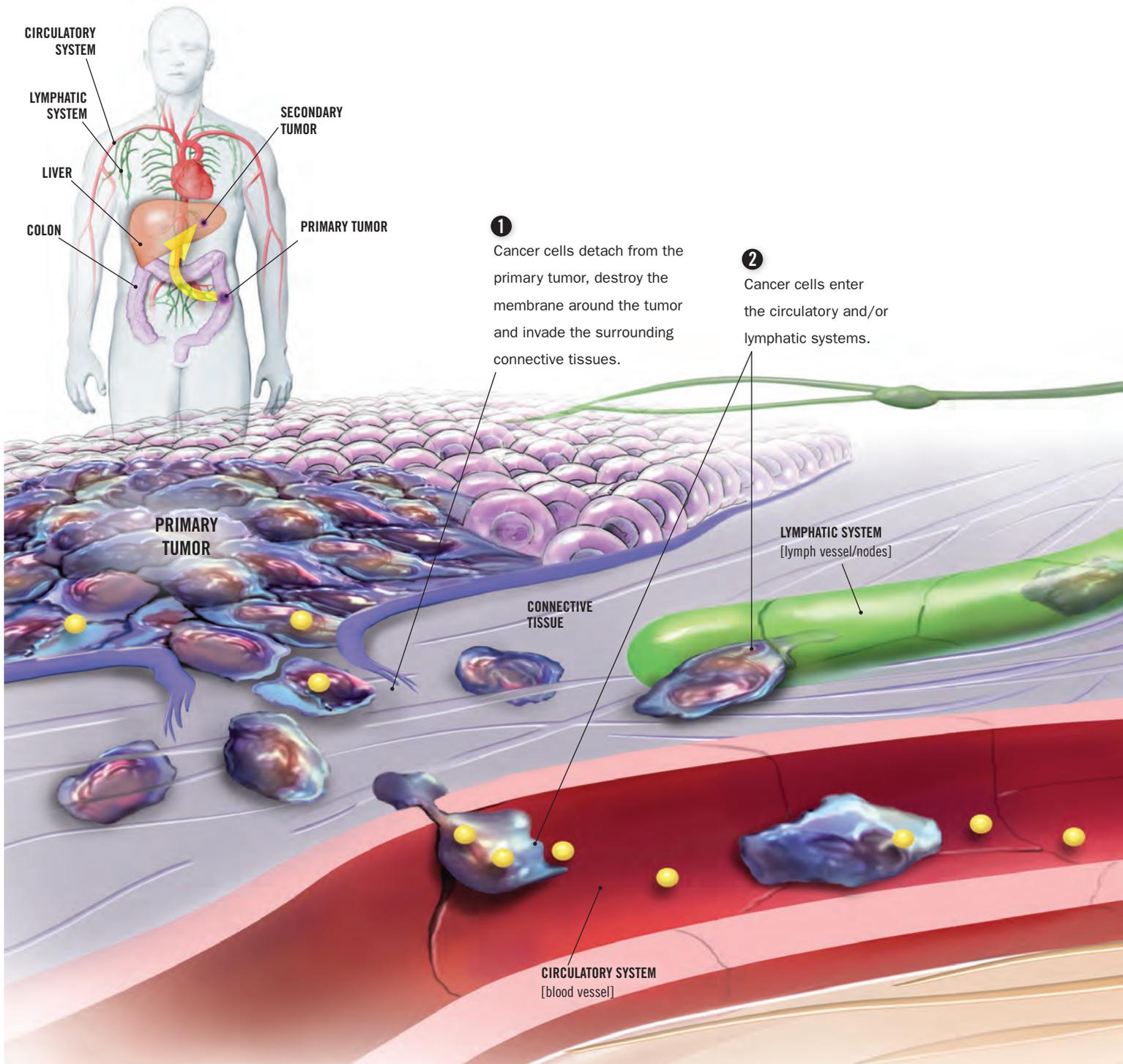


Metastasis

Cancer cells may travel to distant parts of the body through the blood or lymphatic system, which is called metastasis.



How does Cancer Metastasize?

WHEN CANCER CELLS SPREAD to one or more sites in the body, they often travel through the **lymph system** or the **bloodstream**. Only a few cells will survive every stage of development, but a few are all it takes for metastasis to occur. Regardless of whether the metastasis is regional (in the lymph nodes, tissues or organs close to the primary site) or distant (in organs or tissues that are farther away), it is always named for the place it began. **That's why colon cancer that spreads to the liver is called metastatic colorectal cancer, not liver cancer.**

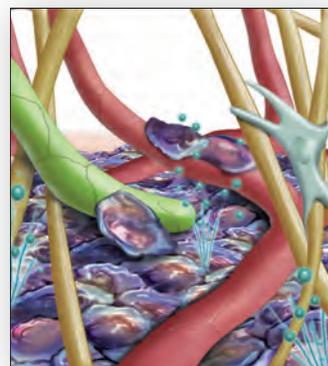
.....

3 Receptors on the surface of cancer cells detect and follow a trail of certain proteins (chemokines) that stem from the distant organ.

4 Cancer cells latch onto the vessel wall before invading it, and then exit into the surrounding connective tissues.

6 Cancer cells establish a microenvironment that allows them to build secondary tumors.

MICROENVIRONMENT



SECONDARY TUMORS

5 Cancer cells migrate to the distant organ, where proteins on the surface of the cancer cells interact with proteins on the surface of the organ, locking the malignant cells in place.

BINDING PROTEINS

