The liver is the largest organ in your body. It is located behind the ribcage on the right side of your body, above the stomach and intestines.

What the Liver Does
The liver has several roles to help metabolize food and keep you healthy:

- Remove toxins and harmful substances from the blood
- Produce enzymes and bile that digest food
- Store sugar that the body later uses for energy

About Liver Tumors
Throughout the body, new cells form to replace old, dead cells all the time. Sometimes new cells form when the body does not need them, or old cells do not die when they should. Extra cells can build up and form a mass of tissue called a growth or tumor. Tumors can be benign or malignant.

Benign tumors are not cancer. Often, doctors can remove them and in most cases, benign tumors do not come back after they are removed. Their cells do not spread to tissues around them or to other parts of the body. Most important, benign tumors are rarely a threat to life.

Malignant tumors are cancer. They are usually more serious and may be life-threatening. Cancer cells can invade nearby tissues and organs. Cancer cells can also break away from the tumor and enter the bloodstream or lymphatic system. That is how they spread from the original (primary) tumor to form new tumors in other organs. The spread of cancer is called metastasis.

Cancer and the Liver
Cancer that starts in the liver is called primary liver cancer. Cancer that spreads to the liver from another part of the body is not liver cancer. For example, if colon cancer spreads to the liver, it is called colon cancer with metastasis to the liver.

When cancer grows in the liver, one or more of these symptoms may occur:

- Pain in the upper abdomen on the right side
- A lump or a feeling of heaviness in the upper abdomen
- Feeling swollen or bloated in the belly area
- Loss of appetite and feeling full
- Weight loss
- Weakness or feeling very tired
- Nausea and vomiting
- Jaundice (yellow skin and eyes, pale stools, and dark urine that occur when the liver is not working properly)

These symptoms do not necessarily mean liver cancer. Other health problems can cause these symptoms. Anyone with these symptoms should see a doctor as soon as possible.