



Figure 9-6. Sequential steps in the development of cancer. Cancer originates from a single cell (clone) through a multistep process. Initiation by one of four methods (a-d) leads to repair of damage, or cell death, or fixation of DNA damage, which may predispose the cell to transition into a neoplastic state. Chromosome-breakage syndromes (also called genetic syndromes, such as xeroderma pigmentosum and ataxia telangiectasia) are associated with deficiencies in DNA repair and genetic instability. Environmental or host factors may play roles in cancer promotion and latency. End products of these steps are the tumor and its potential metastases.

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