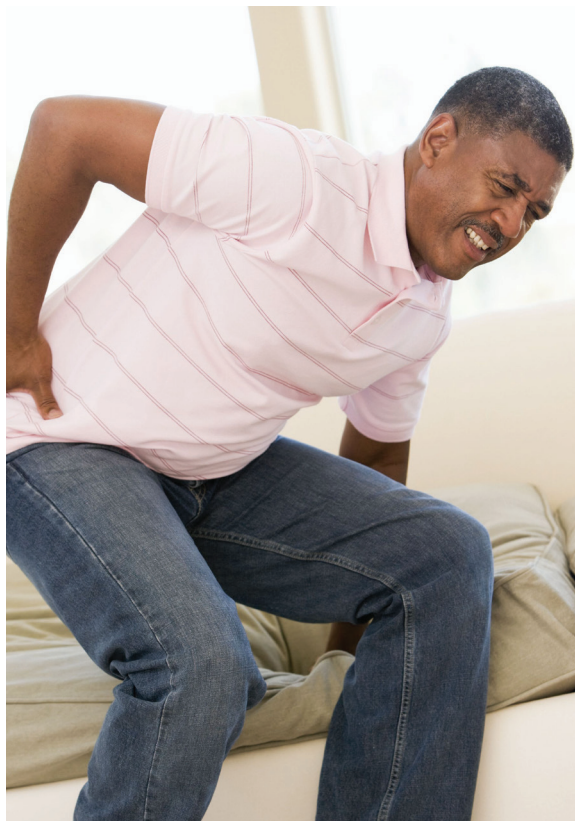


WHY IS MULTIPLE MYELOMA TWICE AS IMPORTANT TO AFRICAN AMERICANS?

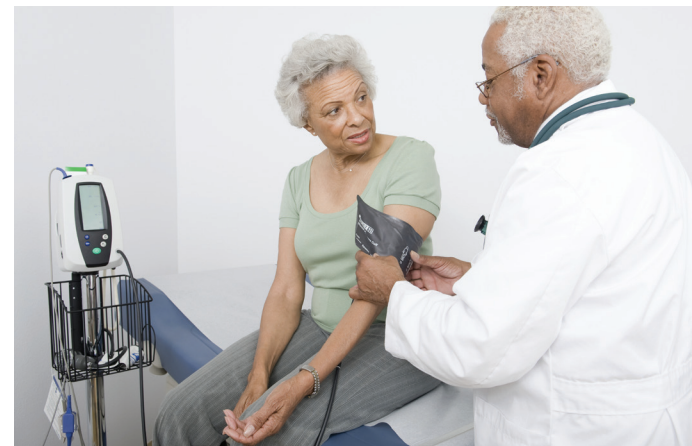


Because we're twice as likely to get it. Multiple Myeloma is a cancer of the blood and bones. It affects African Americans two times more frequently than other groups. It can occur at any age, but mostly around 60 years and older.

Multiple Myeloma can be mistaken for "just getting older." You may not know you have it because its symptoms are more general and can seem like a normal part of aging.

Symptoms for Multiple Myeloma include:

- Back pain
- Weakness and tiredness
- Frequent urination
- Constipation



Should you be concerned? Multiple Myeloma attacks cells that fight infection and disease and can permanently weaken bones and damage organs. If you have any of the symptoms, don't ignore them – go see your doctor. A simple blood and urine test can show if further testing is necessary.

Like any cancer, catching it early is the best approach. If you have the disease, your doctor can advise you about treatments, which include new clinical trials. Newer treatments for multiple myeloma make people live longer and feel better.

Cancer.gov/myeloma 1-800-4-CANCER

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