

As hypercalcaemia can affect several organ systems, initially it may be asymptomatic or present with non-specific symptoms. These may be similar to that of advanced malignancy and the side-effects of chemotherapy or analgesia. It is important to consider the possibility of HCM in any patient with a cancer diagnosis who presents with the following signs and symptoms.

Common signs

Common signs and symptoms of hypercalcaemia include:

- lethargy
- confusion
- anorexia
- muscle weakness
- constipation
- polyuria
- polydipsia



Severe signs

Severe hypercalcaemia has serious and potentially life-threatening consequences. Signs and symptoms include:

- nausea
- vomiting
- abdominal pain
- lethargy
- obtundation •
(altered level of consciousness)
- delirium
- cardiac arrhythmias •
(rare)

Severity of symptoms experienced are dependant upon both the absolute calcium level as well as how quickly calcium levels have risen.