ROSWELL PARK COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

PANCREATIC CANCER *Info Sheet*

PANCREATIC CANCER IS **MORE COMMON**

in Men than in women

and

among **African-American** and **Ashkenazi Jew** populations

Pancreatic cancer is most frequently diagnosed **among people age**

65-74

EXCESS body weight increases risk

MAINTAINING body weight within the normal range decreases risk

QUIT SMOKING? YES, YOU CAN!

Call the New York State Quitline at **1-866-NY-QUITS** (1-866-697-8487) or visit **www.nysmokefree.com** for guidance, support and cessation aids.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Your pancreas is a small organ in the abdomen that helps you digest and use the energy that comes from the food you eat. Pancreatic cancer is usually one of these types:

Exocrine pancreatic cancer begins in the ducts that carry pancreatic juices. Most pancreatic cancers are exocrine pancreatic cancer.

Endocrine pancreatic (or Islet Cell) cancer begins in the pancreas cells that make hormones.

SYMPTOMS TO TELL YOUR DOCTOR

Early pancreatic cancer doesn't usually cause symptoms, but be sure to tell your physician if you experience any of the following:

- **Jaundice, or yellowing of the skin and eyes**
- **Dark urine, pale stools**
- **Stool that floats in the toilet**
- **Pain in the upper part of the belly, or middle of your back that doesn't go away when you change your position**
- **Poor appetite, indigestion and nausea**
- **Weakness and fatigue**
- **Unexplained weight loss**

ARE YOU AT HIGHER RISK?

People with the following risk factors may be more likely than others to develop pancreatic cancer:

- Smoking
- Obesity
- Chronic pancreatitis, or inflammation of the pancreas
- Diabetes
- Family history of pancreatic cancer
- Certain genetic syndromes

Pancreatic cancer is an aggressive and complex disease. At Roswell Park, our experts treat it every day.

SHOULD YOU BE SCREENED?

Roswell Park's **Pancreatic Cancer Screening** program focuses on people at highest risk due to one or more of these factors:

- Two or more blood relatives with pancreatic cancer
- Hereditary cancer syndrome such as Peutz-Jeghers, Lynch Syndrome/HNPCC, MEN1 or von Hippel Lindau
- A known mutation in one of these genes: ATM, BRCA1, BRCA2, CDKN2A, MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, EPCAM, PALB2, STK11, or TP53
- Hereditary pancreatitis

Pancreatic cancer is difficult to detect at early stages because no one test can reliably screen for it. Roswell Park experts will assess your risk and offer a **personalized screening plan** that may include:

- Endoscopic ultrasound and/or MRI
- Genetic consultation and/or testing
- Periodic evaluation

WHY ROSWELL PARK FOR PANCREATIC CANCER?

- Our designation as a National Pancreas Foundation Center, the only one in the region.

NATIONAL PANCREAS FOUNDATION CENTER

- **Nationally recognized**. Roswell Park is among a select group of comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the state's only one outside of New York City.
- **Liver and Pancreas Tumor team** that brings together surgeons, oncologists and allied health providers dedicated to caring for people with these difficult cancers.
- **Support services** including counseling, spiritual care, smoking cessation, pain management, social work, dental care and massage, art, music and pet therapy programs.
- **Access to the latest therapies**. The newest treatments, available only through clinical trials, are important options for many patients with pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer accounts for 3% of all cancers, but 8% of cancer deaths.



GET A *Second* OPINION

If you have a cancer diagnosis, you need a second opinion. We can arrange for our pancreas experts to review your scans and pathology and schedule a consultation.

WHY IT MATTERS

In about 10% of cases we review, the diagnosis is changed, impacting your treatment options, decisions and the way forward.



MEET OUR DOCTORS

Surgical Oncology
1. Mashaal Dhir, MBBS
2. Leonid Cherkassky, MD
3. Moshim Kukar, MD, FACS
4. Zachary Stiles, DO, MS

Medical Oncology
5. Christos Fountzilas, MD
6. Anuradha Krishnamurthy, MBBS
7. Kannan Thanikachalam, MBBS
8. Sunita Patruni, MD

Radiation Oncology
9. David Mattson, Jr., MD
10. Nadia Malik, MD

Endoscopy/ Gastroenterology
11. Kevin Robillard, MD
12. Sherish Jamot, MD

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