

UNC High-Risk Pancreatic Cancer Clinic

WHAT WE DO

Our clinic is designed to manage patients at high risk of pancreatic cancer due to genetic mutations or family history of pancreatic cancer. Patients referred to the High-Risk Pancreatic Cancer Clinic are screened and genetically tested to determine if they might be at elevated risk and then advised on next steps.

Screening is important because symptoms of pancreatic cancer do not develop until the disease reaches an advanced stage, when it is difficult to treat. Catching the potential for pancreatic cancer early can be essential to effective treatment. When we find that a patient is at greater risk, we collaborate with physicians within the Pancreatic Center of Excellence to create the optimal care plan for the patient's unique circumstances.



Robert Sandler, MD, Director

**Click to request an
appointment**

**or call
(984) 215-4672**

WHO IS AT HIGHER RISK OF PANCREATIC CANCER?

- Patients who have at least one first-degree relative with pancreatic cancer, who in turn has a first-degree relative with pancreatic cancer
- All patients with Peutz-Jeghers syndrome
- All carriers of germline mutation CDKN2A
- Carriers of germline mutation BRCA1, BRCA1, PALB2, ATM, MLH1, MSH2, or MSH6 who also have at least one affected first-degree relative

WHEN SHOULD PATIENTS BE SCREENED?

- Patients with familial pancreatic cancer or germline mutations should begin screening at age 50 or when 10 years younger than youngest affected blood relative.
- Patients with Peutz-Jeghers or CDKN2A should begin screening at age 40.

A VIST TO OUR CLINIC INCLUDES:

- A detailed medical and family history
- Discussion of important issues (i.e., what to do with your genetic and family history, who to tell, etc.)
- Assistance in follow-up or records acquisition, if necessary
- Genetic testing, if indicated
- A personalized screening or care plan tailored to your individual needs

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Patients who elect to be screened should be tested every 12 months with MRI/MRCP and/or endoscopic ultrasound. In addition to screening, we evaluate patients' risk, conduct genetic testing, make further recommendations depending on each situation, and coordinate additional testing, disease management, and treatment with experts within the Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence.

Compared with common cancers such as breast cancer and colon cancer, screening for pancreatic cancer is neither as simple nor as accurate. Current diagnostic tests many uncover innocent findings that require biopsy or surgery to evaluate. During visits to the High-Risk Pancreatic Cancer Clinic, we provide patients with statistics that they can use to make decisions about screening.

OUR TEAM

- Gastroenterology: Robert Sandler, MD, MPH
- Surgical Oncology
 - Jen Jen Yeh, MD
 - HJ Kim, MD
- Genetic Counselor: Julianne O'Daniel, MS, CGC
- Interventional Endoscopy: Todd Baron, MD
- GI Surgery
 - Jose Guillem, MD, MPH, MBA
 - Tim Sadiq, MD, FACS (UNC Rex Hospital)
- Endocrinology: Elizabeth Harris, MD, FACE
- Medical Oncology: Juneko Grilley-Olson, MD

CONTACT US

We know every situation is unique, so we provide insight and peace of mind in a compassionate setting where you and your family can feel empowered to make the best decisions. Our team of experts is here to advise and support you throughout screening, testing, and possible treatment. You can [request an appointment now](#) or call us at (984) 215-4672.