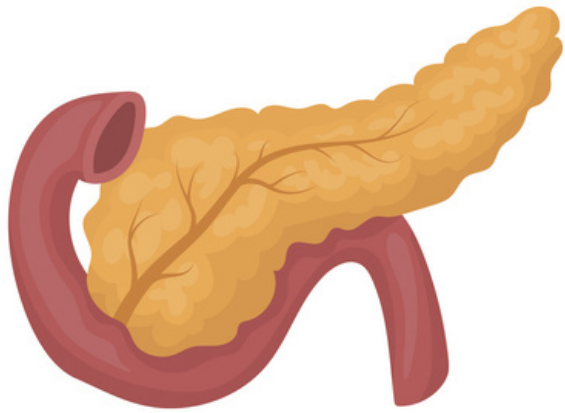


## DIAGNOSIS

We conduct physical exams, diagnostic imaging, and biopsies to find a patient's tumors. If any tumors are malignant, we assign a stage of cancer and assess the extent of the disease, and our team of experts creates the most promising treatment plan for the patient's needs.



Stage	Tumor Location
I	Only in the pancreas
II	In nearby lymph nodes
III	In large blood vessels
IV	Far beyond the pancreas



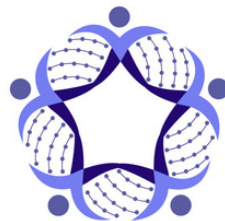
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NATIONAL PANCREAS FOUNDATION  
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# Pancreatic Cancer

## Patient Education

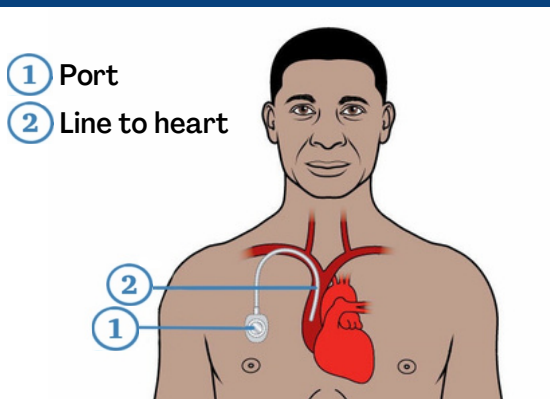


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## TREATMENT

The most effective methods we have to treat pancreatic cancer are surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

If tumors can be safely removed with surgery, we do so through traditional or minimally invasive procedures. For any tumors that cannot be removed, we use chemotherapy and/or radiation to shrink them and kill cancerous cells that have spread beyond the pancreas.



Before surgery or radiation, we might implant a port into the patient's chest to administer chemo. Ports are used as long-term IVs, so a fresh IV does not need to be placed each chemo session.

After primary treatment, more chemo might be needed to remove remaining cancer cells and reduce risk of relapse.

### [Can we prevent weight loss and fatigue?](#)

Unfortunately, these side effects are natural. They can cause stress, especially in caregivers.

We try to adjust treatment to limit fatigue, and although we cannot prevent weight loss, medication can improve appetite.

### [What about pain?](#)

Pain can be treated with opiates, Tylenol, radiation therapy and, in rare cases, surgery or a nerve block. We use every tool we have to ensure patients are as comfortable as possible.

### [Does chemo have other side effects?](#)

Diarrhea, nausea, and numbness/tingling in the hands/feet can be treated with medicine, as can vomiting, which is highly uncommon.

### [What about radiation?](#)

Upset stomach/nausea are possible, and skin can redden/blister at sites receiving radiation. These are all treatable with medicine.

### [How long does surgery recovery take?](#)

It depends on the procedure. Tumors in the head/neck of the pancreas often need more extensive surgery and longer recovery (6-9 months) than those in the body (2-3 months).

### [Are there risks associated with ports?](#)

Infection and blood clots are uncommon. Implant site might be sore shortly afterward, although rarely for more than a few days.

### [Do patients stay overnight for chemo?](#)

No, chemo is done in our clinic and patients can return home with a caretaker the same day.

## CLINICAL TRIALS

We rely on clinical trials to find the best ways to treat cancer, and we hope our patients can benefit from innovative therapies and new treatment solutions.

Most of our patients are encouraged to enroll in clinical trials to help us develop novel treatment strategies that are more effective and increasingly safe.



Each trial focuses on a specific stage and severity of cancer and has its own eligibility requirements. To learn if you are eligible for any clinical trials held at UNC-Chapel Hill, please scan the QR code on the back of this brochure.

We understand the hardship patients and their loved ones go through, and we appreciate your commitment to helping every patient with pancreatic cancer experience the best possible care.