



**Promising New
Options for
Diagnosis and
Treatment of
Pancreatic
Diseases**



Georgetown
University
Hospital 

MedStar Health

Introduction

The Pancreatic Surgery Program at Georgetown University Hospital offers patients the full range of current therapies, supplemented by the potential to participate in promising clinical trials that could change how acute and chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer are diagnosed and treated in the future.

Georgetown already has in place the four pillars required to provide optimal care for all forms of pancreatic disease:

- A state-of-the-art intraoperative radiation therapy suite and radiation center
- The most advanced diagnostic procedures available today for the detection of disorders in the pancreas, liver, gallbladder and biliary ducts
- Specialists experienced in benign and malignant pancreatic disease
- Access to top-notch oncologists affiliated with the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center – the only center in the metropolitan area to earn this top NCI-designation, and one of less than 40 nationwide*

*Source: NCI Website



Additionally, Georgetown is the sole hospital in the area with the specific patient volume necessary to support two pancreatic surgical specialists, thereby assuring the best possible outcomes. **In fact, studies suggest that institutions should perform a minimum of 10 pancreaticoduodenectomies (Whipple procedures) each year to maintain the level of expertise and skills required by the complex surgery; Georgetown's numbers nearly double this benchmark.** When combined with all other treatment modalities available for pancreatic cancer and pancreatitis, we can offer your patients the most technologically advanced care possible.

As an academic institution, we also conduct both clinical and bench research to offer patients access to the latest developments and new approaches to care.

The net result is comprehensive, cutting-edge care, all in one place.



PANCREATIC CANCER

Difficult to diagnose and equally difficult to treat, pancreatic cancer is often aggressive, making it the fifth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and the cancer with the highest fatality rate. Of the estimated 29,000 patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer annually, only one in five with cancer of the exocrine pancreas will live more than one year. Of these, just 15 percent will survive five years.

While surgery is a patient's best hope, it is only an option for those whose cancer is confined to the pancreas. For optimal patient outcomes, physician consults and patient evaluations should be initiated as soon as pancreatic cancer is suspected.

Experience Counts

The Pancreatic Surgery Program at Georgetown uses a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together surgeons, oncologists, intensivists and other experienced specialists in pancreas and hepatobiliary surgery. As the only hospital in the area with the patient volume to support a pancreatic surgery program, Georgetown's specialists are experts at performing the complex diagnostic tests and treatment regimens required, including biliary endoscopy, endoscopic ultrasound, pancreaticoduodenectomy and distal pancreatectomy.

New Options

In the quest to improve the prognosis for patients with pancreatic cancer, Georgetown's team of physicians and researchers are working together to design and test the most appropriate and promising new diagnostic techniques and treatment plans.



One option with the most potential to help shape the future of pancreatic care is the CyberKnife®, a sophisticated stereotactic radiosurgical system designed to target hard-to-reach areas. As one of only 12 installations in the nation, Georgetown already has more experience than any other U.S. institution in using the device for soft-tissue lesions, including 11 pancreatic cancer cases, according to the device's manufacturer. Now, clinicians and researchers are studying whether it may be able to shrink unresectable pancreatic tumors enough to allow subsequent surgery, offering patients a treatment modality unavailable elsewhere, and new hope for the future.



In addition to the CyberKnife study, other clinical and bench research projects in pancreatic disease under way at Georgetown are examining:

- An investigational vaccine that could help the immune system kill only the cancerous cells
- Various chemotherapy/radiation therapy combinations to keep pancreatic cancer from metastasizing to other organs
- The administration of new systematic drugs, including C-raf-1 that might make pancreatic cancer cells more sensitive to radiation therapy
- Ways to identify genetic markers for better and earlier diagnosis

PANCREATITIS



Acute and chronic inflammation of the pancreas and other benign pancreatic lesions affect approximately 80,000 Americans each year, and cases are on the rise. In up to 30 percent of patients, the condition is severe and potentially life-threatening with as many as 40 percent of these individuals succumbing to the disease.

Both acute and chronic pancreatitis are difficult to treat, requiring hospitalization that can last from a few days to weeks to stabilize the patient and allow the pancreas to heal. Severe cases call for ICU management, multiple interventions and often surgery, and require highly-experienced specialists to resolve successfully.

As with pancreatic cancer, the sooner the patient with pancreatitis is referred to experts, the better the outcome.

Treatment at Georgetown

The pancreatic surgery program at Georgetown takes an aggressive, multidisciplinary approach toward both acute and chronic pancreatitis. Our team of specialists offers the most advanced medical and surgical treatments available, including:

- Bypass surgery to relieve obstruction
- ERCP to drain bile
- EUS to insert a stent into the duct
- Gallstone removal through cholecystectomy or the newer, minimally invasive procedure, laparoscopic cholecystectomy; and intra-operative common bile duct exploration
- Pain management
- Surgery using the internal drainage procedures, or resection via the pancreaticoduodenectomy, distal pancreatectomy or total pancreatectomy to remove all or part of the diseased pancreas

GEORGETOWN'S COMMITMENT

to our referring physicians assures that you are involved in the process, every step of the way, with frequent follow-up. In short, we have all the systems in place to manage your patients with pancreatitis, and return them to your care.

THE PANCREATIC SURGERY TEAM

Patrick G. Jackson, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery

Medical Degree: Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons

Residency: Massachusetts General Hospital - Chief Resident

Fellowships: The Robert Linton Fellowship for Research; Laparoscopic Surgical Fellow, Massachusetts General Hospital

Special Interests: Surgical oncology, gastric and pancreatic surgery, abdominal laparoscopic surgery

Lynt B. Johnson, MD

Professor, Department of Surgery

Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery

Medical Degree: Harvard Medical School

Residency: Massachusetts General Hospital - Chief Resident

Fellowship: Deaconess Medical Center

Special Interests: Hepatobiliary surgery, dialysis access surgery, cryosurgery, radiofrequency ablation and pancreatic surgery

Vinod Narra, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery

Medical Degree: Georgetown University Medical Center

Residency: Georgetown University Medical Center; Brigham and Women's Hospital - Chief Resident

Fellowships: Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital in research

Special Interests: Clinical - Surgical oncology and endocrine surgery; Research - Signal transduction pathways in pancreatic cancer

Georgetown University Hospital is a 609-licensed bed, not-for-profit, acute care teaching and research facility based in Northwest Washington, DC. Georgetown's clinical services represent one of the largest, most geographically diverse and fully integrated health care delivery networks in the area. Georgetown is home to the internationally known Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, as well as nationally ranked programs in gastroenterology, otolaryngology, geriatrics, gynecology, cardiology, endocrinology, nephrology, orthopedics, pulmonology, urology and rheumatology.

We're Only a Phone Call Away

For more information about the Pancreatic Surgery Program, call **Georgetown M.D.**, our free physician referral service staffed by nurse counselors. We can put you in contact with the doctor who best meets your personal and medical needs, and can arrange an appointment. All physicians involved in **Georgetown M.D.** are associated with Georgetown University Hospital.

Call **202-342-2400** or toll-free **866-745-2633**, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



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University
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3800 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007

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