

# Pancreatic Cancer



UCSF Helen Diller Family  
Comprehensive  
Cancer Center

The **UCSF Patient and Family Cancer Support Center** is the hub of support, information and resources for people with cancer at the **Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center**. Learn more about UCSF's supportive care programs at <https://cancer.ucsf.edu/support/crc/patient-support-center>

The **Cancer Support Center at Mission Bay** is located at 1825 4th St., 1st Floor, Room M-1210. The **Cancer Support Center at Mt. Zion** is located at 1600 Divisadero St., 1st Floor, Room B-101.

The complete list of Patient Education Resource Pages is available to view at <http://cancer.ucsf.edu/support/crc/patient-education-resources>

## Overview

The pancreas is an oblong organ, about six inches long, located in the upper abdomen. It has two major functions: The first is to produce digestive enzymes – proteins that help digest food into the small intestine. Cells that perform this function make up the exocrine pancreas. The second major function is to produce hormones that are secreted into the blood. These cells make up the endocrine pancreas. Website: <https://www.ucsfhealth.org/conditions/pancreatic-cancer>

### Endocrine Pancreas

The endocrine pancreas is made up of specialized cells, referred to as islets of Langerhans, that produce hormones. The most important hormone produced is insulin that helps control sugar in the blood. Cancers that begin in islet cells are called islet cell tumors or pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. These tumors are rare and may produce hormones that cause very low or very high blood sugars or symptoms such as stomach pain and severe diarrhea.

### Exocrine Pancreas

The exocrine pancreas is made up of ducts and acini, which are small pockets at the end of the ducts. Cells lining the ducts are the most likely to develop cancer, called ductal adenocarcinomas, the most common type of pancreatic cancer. These two types of tumors are treated very differently.

## UCSF Resources

### UCSF Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology/Surgery Clinic

The clinic offers the most advanced and effective treatments available for cancerous as well as benign gastrointestinal conditions. These include conditions involving the anus, bile duct, colon, esophagus, gallbladder, liver, pancreas, peritoneal cavity, rectum, small intestine, spleen and stomach. Website: <https://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/gastrointestinal-medical-oncology-clinic> |



## Publications

National Cancer Institute: “What You Need to Know about Cancer of the Pancreas” (also in Spanish) Website: <http://www.cancer.gov/types/pancreatic>

National Comprehensive Cancer Network: “NCCN Guidelines for Patients” Pancreatic Cancer”

Website: <http://www.nccn.org/patients/guidelines/pancreatic/index.html>

## Organizations

American Cancer Society (ACS) -Pancreatic Cancer

At the American Cancer Society, we're on a mission to free the world from cancer. Until we do, we'll be funding and conducting research, sharing expert information, supporting patients, and spreading the word about prevention. All so you can live longer — and better.

Website: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/pancreatic-cancer.html>

Cancer Support Community – Pancreatic Cancer

As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community.

Website: <https://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/pancreatic-cancer> | Phone Number: 888-793-9355

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the federal government's principal agency for cancer research and training. NCI is deeply committed to the core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion that allow all staff to reach their potential and fully contribute to the Institute's cancer mission. Website: <http://www.pancan.org/> | Phone Number: (877) 573-9971

Medline Plus: Trusted Health Information for You - Pancreatic Cancer

MedlinePlus is a service of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library, which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Website: <https://medlineplus.gov/pancreaticcancer.html>

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## National LGBT Cancer Network

The National LGBT Cancer Network works to improve the lives of LGBT cancer survivors and those at risk by: EDUCATING the LGBT community about our increased cancer risks and the importance of screening and early detection; TRAINING health care providers to offer more culturally-competent, safe and welcoming care; and ADVOCATING for LGBT survivors in mainstream cancer organizations, the media and research.

Website: <https://cancer-network.org/about/> | Phone Number: 212-675-2633

## Books

Pancreatic Cancer Today: Best Books On Pancreatic Cancer Website:

<https://www.pancreaticcancertoday.com/books-on-pancreatic-cancer>

*This information is intended to offer credible and reliable education resources for patients who want to learn more about their diagnosis. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all resources available.*

