

SYMPTOMS OF PANCREATIC CANCER

Cancer of the pancreas is sometimes called a “silent” disease because symptoms are not usually present in early stages. Many patients have advanced disease by the time it becomes noticeable to the patient and doctors. If symptoms are present, they are often vague. Patients may experience different symptoms depending on the location, type and stage of the tumor. Symptoms that commonly lead to diagnosis include: jaundice, abdominal and/or back pain, diabetes, unexplained weight loss and loss of appetite. A person with advanced pancreatic cancer may also experience ascites and blood clots. Symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, digestive difficulties and depression may occur at any time.

Follow the links below for more information about each symptom commonly associated with pancreatic cancer. If someone experiences one or more of the symptoms mentioned in this section, it does not mean that he or she has pancreatic cancer. There are other common medical problems or conditions that may also cause these or similar symptoms. Therefore, anyone experiencing these symptoms should consult with a doctor. Only a doctor can diagnose the cause of an individual's symptoms.

[Jaundice](#) [Weight loss](#) [Pain](#) [Digestive difficulties](#) [Changes in stools](#)
[Blood clots](#) [Diabetes](#) [Ascites](#) [Neuroendocrine tumors](#)

TREATMENT

Depending on the type and stage of the cancer, the patient may be treated with surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy and/or palliative therapies. Some patients may receive more than one or a combination of these treatments. Pancreatic cancer clinical trials may also be an appropriate treatment option. ***The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network recommends that all patients consider clinical trials when exploring treatment options.***

Patients should seek care from hospitals and/or doctors that provide the best quality care. In many cases, this care can be obtained through hospitals or doctors that care for large numbers of people with pancreatic cancer. With more experience, hospitals or doctors may have greater knowledge of the disease and treatment options.

[Treatment by stage](#) [Clinical trials](#)
[Chemotherapy](#) [Targeted therapy](#)
[Immunotherapy](#) [Radiation therapy](#)
[Surgery](#) [Whipple procedure \(pancreaticoduodenectomy\)](#)
[Distal pancreatectomy](#) [Total pancreatectomy](#)
[Biliary and gastric bypass](#) [Stents](#)

Cain Health Resources

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