



KNOW THE FACTS

NATIONAL PANCREATIC CANCER CANADA FOUNDATION

Pancreatic Cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer

- Every 15 minutes someone is diagnosed and every 17 minutes someone will die from pancreatic cancer.
- The 4th leading cause of cancer-related death in Canada and the United States.
- More than 250,000 men and women around the world will die this coming year from this devastating disease including 3,900 Canadians and 35,200 Americans.
- Highest mortality rate of all the major cancers – 95% of patients die within 5 years of their diagnosis and 75% of patients die within the first year.
- A silent killer – it's difficult to detect and spreads so quickly. Vague symptoms including back/abdominal pain, jaundice and nausea usually appear after the cancer is at an advanced stage making it difficult to treat.
- 5 year survival rate has not improved in the last 40 years (4% to 6%) making this disease the most lethal of all cancers.
- Few risk factors for developing pancreatic cancer are defined. Family history of the disease, smoking, age, and diabetes are thought to be contributing factors.

Treatment Options for pancreatic cancer are limited

- There are no detection tools to diagnose this disease in its early stages when surgical removal of the tumor is still possible.
- Surgery offers the best chance for long term survival. Unfortunately, only 15% of patients diagnosed are eligible. The most common form of surgery for removal of a pancreatic tumor is the whipple procedure and may be followed with chemotherapy or a combination of chemotherapy/radiation.
- For the patients who are not surgical candidates, chemotherapy or a combination of chemotherapy with radiation is typically offered.
- Approximately 52% of all patients are diagnosed when the disease has spread to surrounding organs leaving little hope for survival. (only 2% will survive five years)
- Three drugs are currently being used to treat pancreatic cancer: gemcitabine (Gemzar®), fluorouracil (5-FU) and erlotinib (Tarceva). While these treatments can be beneficial in treating some patients, they are not considered curative.

* References: Princess Margaret Hospital/ University Health Network, c.Health, Canadian Cancer Society. The above statistics pertain to adenocarcinoma, the most common type of pancreatic cancer. Other forms of pancreatic cancer include islet cell or neuroendocrine tumors in the pancreas

We need to stop pancreatic cancer from being so fatal to so many.

Early detection will SAVE LIVES and bring HOPE where little exists today.

www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca