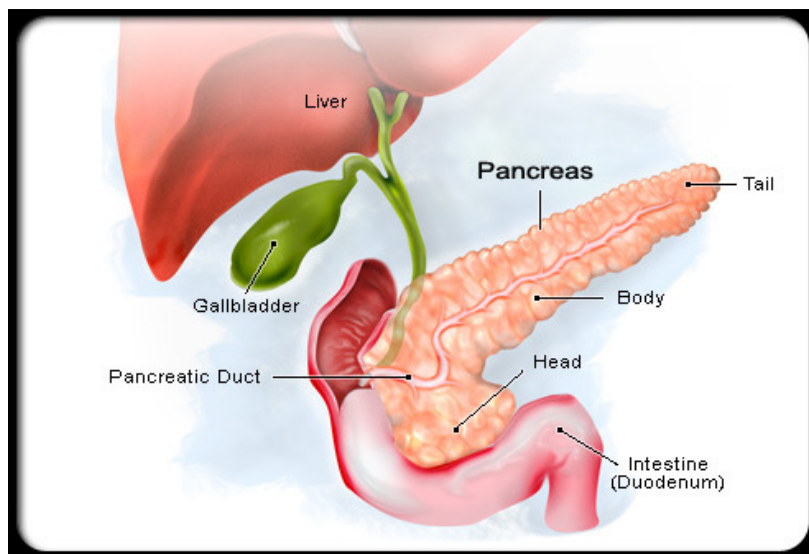


What is the Pancreas and what does it do?



The pancreas is a 6-inch-long spongy, tube-shaped organ located in the back of the abdomen, behind the stomach and below the liver. It has two major jobs in the body:

- It produces digestive juices (enzymes) that help the intestines break down food
- It produces key hormones, including insulin, that regulate the body's use of sugars and starches.

Referred to as the silent killer, pancreatic cancer is virtually impossible to detect and diagnose early. By the time symptoms appear, such as jaundice, back or abdominal pain, weight loss and digestive problems, the disease has usually spread to surrounding organs and advanced to the point where little can be done.

Why the NEED to discover a means to detect pancreatic cancer is CRITICAL:

- Every **15 minutes**, someone is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- **No pre-screening or early detection tools.** Vast majority of patients diagnosed (80-90%) with this disease will die within the first 6 months because the disease has metastasized and spread to other organs.
- **2nd most common cause of death** (behind cardiovascular heart disease). The 4th leading cause of cancer death in men and women (behind breast, colon and prostate).
- Pancreatic cancer kills more people within the first 12 months than any other cancer. The **5 year survival rate is a bleak 8 %** (the lowest of leading cancer killers).
- Unless there are breakthroughs in detection and treatments, pancreatic cancer is predicted to surpass both breast and colorectal to become the **2nd deadliest cancer** in Canada and the United States **by 2020**.



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