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WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR FIRST APPOINTMENT

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APPOINTMENTS

Jean

Gastrointestinal Cancers Program

AT SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL AT YALE–NEW HAVEN

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Pancreatic Cancer

Dr. Howard Hochster

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DIAGNOSING PANCREATIC CANCER

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Chemotherapy is often recommended following surgical removal of a pancreatic tumor to prevent the disease from returning or to delay its return. Chemotherapy is also prescribed to treat patients with advanced or metastatic disease. Our medical oncology team provides expertise and knowledge of innovative treatment options and investigational therapies for pancreatic cancer. Yale Cancer Center is a major national research center for the development of novel therapies for late stage pancreatic cancer and provides our patients with the newest therapies available through clinical trials. Our medical oncologists are also searching for novel combinations of chemotherapy and targeted therapies to further improve the treatment outcomes for pancreatic cancer. Our goal is to help patients live the longest possible time with the best quality of life.

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Radiation therapy is often used to treat patients who are not eligible for surgery or to shrink the pancreatic tumor prior to surgery in combination with chemotherapy. Three-dimensional conformal radiation delivery techniques and four-dimensional CT simulation are used to decrease toxicity while improving tumor targeting. Stereotactic body radiotherapy is also available. Patients who are cared for through the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital and need radiation oncology as a component of their prescribed treatment can feel confident that they are receiving the highest quality care from the most experienced team of radiation oncologists in Connecticut.

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To read Jean’s story, go to yalecancercenter.org/jean

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Pancreatic cancer is often diagnosed by CT scans and MRIs. It is treated by surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. The best treatment plan depends on the stage of the disease and the location of the tumor. Surgery is usually the first line of treatment. The goal of this treatment is to remove as much of the tumor as possible. A multidisciplinary team of surgeons, oncologists, pathologists, gastroenterologists, and geneticists works together to determine the best treatment plan for each patient.

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