



ST. LUKE'S CANCER CENTER

Excellent cancer care.
for life.

To schedule a new patient appointment, please call 484-503-HOPE (4673).

St. Luke's Melanoma Program

The Melanoma Program at St. Luke's is a national center of excellence and provides comprehensive care for patients with all stages of this disease. Care is provided primarily at the state of the art, newly opened cancer center at the St. Luke's Anderson Campus in Bethlehem Township, but is also available at other locations including Bethlehem and Allentown.

What is it?

More than one million people are diagnosed with skin cancer each year. While melanoma accounts for less than five percent of all skin cancers, it is the most deadly of them. Melanoma is the leading cause of skin cancer-related deaths, because it may spread to other areas of the body through the lymph or blood systems.

St. Luke's Melanoma Program

St. Luke's team is comprised of board-certified and fellowship-trained medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists as well as dermatologists, pathologists and radiologists.

The majority of melanomas are diagnosed at a very early stage, usually by dermatologists. St. Luke's works closely with dermatologists from across the Lehigh Valley to help coordinate a patient's care and determine if additional surgical or medical treatment is necessary.

Melanomas that have the potential to spread to other parts of the body are treated by surgical oncologists who may perform wider resections of the melanoma. In some cases it is important to determine if the melanoma has spread to neighboring lymph glands and if so, those lymph glands should be removed. Occasionally, surgical oncologists remove other organs where melanoma has spread to as well.

Melanoma has the ability to spread to lymph nodes and other organs. To prevent this spread, treatments are sometimes necessary. These may include immune treatments with interferon or clinical trials using promising new therapies such as ipilimumab or drugs that target newly discovered mutations in melanoma cells, known as targeted therapies.

The melanoma program is geared towards providing a personalized approach to individual patients based upon their stage and clinical condition using the most advanced and up to date treatment options that used to formerly be available only in larger cities.

Promising new treatments for Melanoma:

When melanoma spreads to other organs, treatment is necessary. Fortunately, progress in treating this difficult condition is moving forward rapidly. Dr Sanjiv Agarwala, Chief of Oncology and Hematology, is an internationally renowned expert for new



continued on back

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St Luke's
UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

www.sluhn.org/cancer
1-866-STLUKES (785-8537) toll free



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treatments for advanced melanoma and is at the forefront of this effort. He is principal investigator for several promising clinical trials with immunotherapy agents such as ipilimumab and PD-1 antibodies, targeted therapies such as vemurafenib, and MEK inhibitors and intralesional therapies such as PV-10 and other immuno-genetic drugs. For more information on melanoma clinical trials at St. Luke's, visit www.sluhn.org/melanomaclinicaltrials.

Our Services:

Services offered by Melanoma Center at St. Luke's Cancer Center include:

Immunotherapy, or biological therapy involves advanced cancer-fighting treatments in the form of vaccines and natural materials made by the body's own immune system. These therapies work to fight cancer by boosting, directing or restoring the body's natural defenses against the tumor. Immunotherapy has been helpful in treating melanoma patients at high risk of recurrence, even those with advanced disease. Studies have proven that, for some people, IL-2 offers the possibility of a complete and long-lasting remission.

Interferon is a natural protein made by the body's immune system. Interferon stops the growth of viruses and cancer cells. Interferon has been shown to significantly prolong the life of high-risk melanoma patients.

High-dose Interleukin-2 (IL-2) is a natural protein that stimulates the growth of cancer-fighting white blood cells. IL-2 has proven effective in prolonging life for melanoma patients with advanced disease. IL-2 is effective when used alone or after standard chemotherapy has failed. St. Luke's Melanoma Center is the only center in eastern Pennsylvania to routinely offer IL-2 as a treatment for melanoma and serves as a regional referral center for this therapy.

Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB). This nuclear medicine and surgical procedure involves injecting dye around a tumor to identify a single lymph node at risk for the spread of cancer. SLNB dramatically increases the accuracy of determining whether a tumor has spread. SLNB reduces the need for major lymph node removal surgery by 70 percent for melanoma patients.

Radiation Therapy. St. Luke's offers the most advanced radiation therapy program in our region and serves as a Varian Medical Systems show site. Radiation therapy may be used to help control melanoma if it has spread or recurred.

Translational melanoma research at St. Luke's

Dr. Lee Riley's laboratory has been working on a vaccine for treating advanced melanoma. The vaccine treats the patient's own tumor with radiofrequency ablation (similar to microwaves) to kill the tumor, and then injects the dead tumor tissue with immune-stimulating compounds in the hopes of generating a potent immune response.

Support services

Our team works to coordinate the full range of services, including initial oncology consultations, immunotherapy treatment, surgery services, follow-up care, social services and counseling, nutritional counseling, symptom management, home health care, patient and family education and access to other necessary care.

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