



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 Cancer Center

St Luke's
UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

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

St. Luke's Gastrointestinal Cancer Program

The Gastrointestinal Cancer Program at St. Luke's Cancer Center was developed to provide patients with the latest and most accurate diagnostics and the largest number of advanced treatments in the region.

St. Luke's Cancer takes a multidisciplinary team approach to care. A wide range of options are available to patients with cancers of the esophagus, pancreas, colon, rectum and liver.

Advanced diagnostic and treatment options include:

- **Positron Emission Tomography (P.E.T.)**, an advanced test to determine if cancer has spread to other parts of the body.
- **Endoscopy** to evaluate the interior of the gastrointestinal system; **Anorectal Manometry** to evaluate rectal function prior to surgery; **Rectal Ultrasound** to determine if radiation or chemotherapy is needed before surgery; **OcteoScans** to detect some gastrointestinal tumors, including pancreatic and liver tumors; **Endoscopic Ultrasound** to evaluate the structures that surround the intestinal tract.
- **Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (SLNB)** 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. St. Luke's surgeons perform SLNB for colon and gastric cancers.
- **Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)** treats or relieves the symptoms of esophageal cancer with a photosensitizing drug and a special laser light. PDT appears to shrink or destroy tumors by damaging blood vessels in the tumor, preventing the cancer from receiving necessary nutrients. PDT also may activate the immune system to attack the tumor cells.
- **Colonic stenting** opens an obstruction in the colon from a tumor, allowing for a full evaluation and preparation of the colon, which may prevent the need for colostomies in certain situations.
- **Laparoscopic surgery** for selected colon cancer patients.
- **Total Mesenteric Excisional Surgery** is the state-of-the-art treatment for rectal cancer. With or without radiation therapy, it allows patients to have optimal rectal function while maximizing the cure rate and dramatically reducing pelvic recurrences of rectal cancer.
- **Microwave Ablation** for liver tumors. A probe is placed in the tumor during surgery; microwaves heat the tumor to kill it. This procedure limits injury to normal liver tissue.

continued on back



- **Hepatic pumps.** Chemotherapy may be given directly to the liver through the hepatic artery. This requires the placement of a catheter into the main artery of the liver and under the skin of the abdomen.
- **Heated Intraperitoneal Hyperthermic Chemotherapy (HIPEC)** is an abdominal cancer treatment that combines heat and chemotherapy administered during surgery. The treatment may be used for select patients whose cancer has spread to the abdominal cavity from primary colon, appendix, gastric and ovarian tumors.
- **SIR-Spheres (selected internal radiation therapy)** are for patients with primary colorectal cancer that has spread to the liver and has failed to respond to chemotherapy. SIR-Spheres are microscopic, radioactive beads that help destroy tumors and are inserted directly into the liver artery that supplies the tumor using X-ray guidance.
- **Image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT).** A robotically controlled “arm” allows the radiation oncologist to counteract the patient’s internal body movements and pinpoint the tumor site on a daily basis. This results in better outcomes as less healthy tissue is exposed to radiation and higher doses of radiation can be given to the tumor.
- **Chemoembolization.** Chemotherapy is injected directly into the liver and blood supply of the tumor to help control the disabling symptoms the tumor may be causing.
- **Alcohol Injections** can be used to kill cells in tumors that are inoperable.
- **TheraSphere,** an FDA-approved outpatient treatment for inoperable liver cancer, uses radioactive microscopic glass beads inserted directly into the liver’s blood supply. The beads lodge inside the liver tumor and deliver high doses of radiation.



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