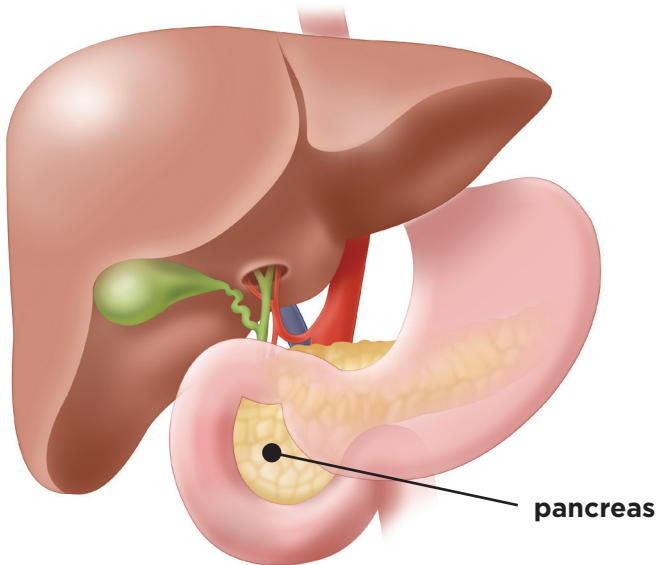




# THE PANCREAS AND PANCREATIC CANCER FACTS

## What is the pancreas?



- It's an organ about 6 inches long, deep in the abdomen between the stomach and the spine
- It has both endocrine and exocrine functions - meaning it secretes proteins into the bloodstream and into other tissues
- It releases digestive juices, also known as digestive or pancreatic enzymes into the small intestine through its exocrine function
- The endocrine function consists of islet cells that produce the blood sugar-regulating hormones insulin (to lower blood sugar) and glucagon (to raise blood sugar) that are secreted into the bloodstream

## Pancreatic Cancer Facts:

- More than 92% of pancreatic cancer cases are pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PDAC). These tumors develop in the exocrine tissue of the pancreas, which makes digestive enzymes.
- The less common pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (NETs), develop in hormone-producing endocrine cells, or islet cells. Neuroendocrine tumors often have a better prognosis and younger median age of diagnosis.
- Pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all major cancers. It is currently the 3rd leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States after lung and colon.
- In 2024 an estimated 66,440 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the U.S., and more than 51,750 will die from the disease.
- For all stages combined, the 5-year relative survival rate is 13%.

### Sources:

American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures  
Additional pancreas information from Columbia University

Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Foundation  
2990 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Suite 300C  
Los Angeles, CA 90064 — [Pancreatic.org](https://www.pancreatic.org)



**HIRSHBERG  
FOUNDATION  
FOR PANCREATIC  
CANCER RESEARCH**

# Know the risks & symptoms of **PANCREATIC CANCER**

## EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES

### RISKS

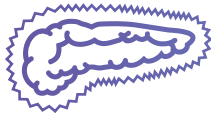
The cause of the majority of pancreatic cancer cases is unknown. There is evidence that the following may increase your risk of pancreatic cancer.



AGE



OBSESITY



PANCREATITIS



SMOKING



DIABETES



FAMILY  
HISTORY

If you are experiencing one or more of these symptoms or think you are at an increased risk for pancreatic cancer, speak to your healthcare provider today.

### SYMPTOMS

The symptoms of pancreatic cancer are often vague and may at first appear to be associated with other less serious and more common conditions.



STOMACH  
PAIN



MID-BACK  
PAIN



UNEXPLAINED  
WEIGHT LOSS



JAUNDICE  
(Yellowish Eyes or Skin)



LOSS OF  
APPETITE,  
NAUSEA



INDIGESTION



CHANGES  
IN STOOL



NEW-ONSET  
DIABETES

**Sources:**

1. American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts & Figures
2. Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today.

*Listen to Your Body*

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