



WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY

NOVEMBER 13, 2015

What is World Pancreatic Cancer Day?

On November 13, 2015, we're going to unite the world to see purple to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. According to a global survey, 60% of people know "almost nothing" about pancreatic cancer. It's time to start the global conversation.

On this day, we come together to draw attention to pancreatic cancer and highlight the need for greater awareness, funding, and research. By standing together against this deadly disease, we hope to create a brighter future for people around the globe.

What is the pancreas?

The pancreas lies behind the stomach and in front of the spine. It produces digestive enzymes that help the body use and store energy while also regulating blood sugar levels.

What is pancreatic cancer?

Pancreatic cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the pancreas grow out of control, forming a mass of tissue called a tumor. Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate of all major cancers. Merely 2-10% of those diagnosed survive five years.

How is pancreatic cancer diagnosed?

Unfortunately, there is no early-detection for pancreatic cancer. Unlike a mammogram or a colonoscopy, there is no such test for pancreatic cancer. Early diagnosis is key for pancreatic cancer: patients who are diagnosed in time for surgery have a much higher likelihood of surviving five years and beyond. Knowing about pancreatic cancer's risk factors and symptoms can help people have informed conversations with their doctors.

What causes pancreatic cancer?

The cause of the majority of pancreatic cancer cases is unknown. For the few known risk factors (e.g., familial history, smoking, obesity, age), more research is needed to understand their direct relationship to the disease. The known behavioral factors impact only a minority of pancreatic cancer cases.

What are the symptoms of pancreatic cancer?

Symptoms – including abdominal or back pain, weight loss, jaundice, loss of appetite, nausea, changes in stool, and diabetes – are often subtle and are generally initially attributed to other less serious and more common conditions.



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How common is pancreatic cancer?

Pancreatic cancer is the 7th most common cause of cancer-related death in men and women across the world. It is the 12th most common cancer in men and women around the world, with an estimated 367,000 new cases expected to be diagnosed in 2015.

While death rates are declining for most other cancers, studies show that death rates for pancreatic cancer are increasing in the United States and Europe.

How can I make a difference?

Join the fight on November 13 by wearing purple and visiting worldpancreaticcancerday.org to get involved.

Who are the partners for World Pancreatic Cancer Day?

Over 50 international organizations have joined together to help raise global awareness of pancreatic cancer, including:

Argentina

- Foundation ACIAPO

Australia

- Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
- Pancare Foundation
- #PurpleOurWorld

Belgium

- European Cancer Patient Coalition

Brazil

- Instituto Oncogula

Canada

- Craig's Cause Pancreatic Cancer Society
- Pancreatic Cancer Canada

Cyprus

- The Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends (PASYKAF)

Denmark

- Kraeftens Bekaempelse (Cancer Society Denmark)
- Pankreasnetvaerket Danmark

Europe

- Europacoln and Digestive Cancers

Finland

- Cancer Society of Finland

France

- FONDATION ARCAD - Aide et Recherche en Cancérologie Digestive

Germany

- TEB e.V. Selbsthilfe - Tumoren und Erkrankungen der Bauchspeicheldrüse

Greece

- K.E.FI - KEFI Association of Cancer Patients of Athens

Hungary

- Gyógyulj Velünk Egyesület (Recovering Together Assoc.)

Italy

- FAVO

Japan

- PanCAN Japan

Mexico

- Association Against Cancer

Norway

- Krefthforeningen (Norwegian Cancer Society)
- Norsk Gastro Intestinal Cancer Gruppe

Portugal

- Europacoln Portugal and Digestive Cancer

Russia

- Movement Against Cancer

Slovakia

- Europacoln Slovakia

Slovenia

- Cancer Patient Association of Slovenia

Spain

- GEPAC
- Spanish Pancreatic Cancer Association

South Africa

- Pancreatic Cancer Network South Africa

Sweden

- PALEMA

UK

- Pancreatic Cancer Action
- Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund
- Pancreatic Cancer Scotland
- Pancreatic Cancer UK

USA

- Alliance of Families Fighting Pancreatic Cancer
- Caring for Carcinoid Foundation
- Florida Pancreas Cancer Coalition
- Griffith Family Foundation
- Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research
- J's Run
- Kenner Family Research Fund
- Lustgarten Foundation
- The National Pancreas Foundation
- National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
- Neuroendocrine Cancer Awareness Network
- North American Neuro Endocrine Tumor Society
- Pancreatic Cancer Alliance
- Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
- Project Purple
- Rolfe Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
- Ron Foley Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
- Sky Foundation
- Wanda Bilec Foundation for Pancreatic Research
- Wings of Hope for Pancreatic Cancer Research
- The Woiner Foundation
- Zetz Family