



## What is Pancreatic Cancer?

The pancreas is an organ deep in the body behind the stomach and is composed of two main cell types: exocrine and endocrine. Pancreatic cancer occurs when the cells in the pancreas grow out of control and form a growth or tumor. Tumors can be cancerous (malignant) or non-cancerous (benign). Exocrine tumors account for 96%<sup>i</sup> of all pancreatic cancers. Adenocarcinoma is the most common sub-type of exocrine tumors. Endocrine tumors are rare, have a better prognosis and are often diagnosed at a younger age. Pancreatic cancer is often diagnosed late because of the location of the pancreas deep in the body, the absence of definitive symptoms, and the lack of early detection methods. There is currently no reliable method for early detection of pancreatic cancer.

### Pancreatic Cancer Facts and Figures:

- Pancreatic cancer is a rare and deadly cancer accounting for 338,000 cancers worldwide.<sup>ii</sup>
- In the United States, pancreatic cancer only accounts for 3%<sup>iii</sup> of all cancers, but is the fourth leading cause of cancer death.<sup>iv</sup>
- In 2015, an estimated 49,000 new cases of pancreatic cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 41,000 deaths will occur as a result of the disease.<sup>v</sup>
- Two-thirds of all pancreatic cancers occur in people aged 65 or older.<sup>vi</sup>
- For all stages combined, the five-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer is approximately 7%, the lowest of any cancer in the United States.<sup>vii</sup>
- 72% of pancreatic cancer patients will die within one year.<sup>viii</sup>
- Because the signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer are non-specific and may not appear until the disease has spread to other sites, approximately 80% of patients are diagnosed with late stage disease.<sup>ix</sup>
- There has not been a material improvement in pancreatic cancer survival rates over the last 40 years. In fact, mortality rates are increasing in the United States.<sup>x</sup>
- Pancreatic cancer is projected to become the second leading cause of cancer death by 2030.<sup>xi</sup>

### Treatment:

- Treatment options for pancreatic cancer are limited. Surgery is the best option for survival, yet it is only possible in about 20% of the cases. Chemotherapy or chemotherapy together with radiation is offered to candidates whose tumors cannot be surgically removed.<sup>xii</sup>
- The majority of these patients receive gemcitabine-based therapy during either adjuvant/neoadjuvant treatment or during first- or second-line therapy for metastatic disease.<sup>xiii</sup>
- There is currently no consensus on the standard of care for patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer previously treated with a gemcitabine-based therapy that had progressed.
- Merrimack's ONIVYDE™ (irinotecan liposome injection) in combination with fluorouracil and leucovorin is the only therapy approved by the FDA for the treatment of patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas after disease progression following gemcitabine-based therapy.

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<sup>i</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2015

<sup>ii</sup> World Health Organization. GLOBOCAN 2012: Estimated Cancer Incidence, Mortality and Prevalence Worldwide in 2012; Lyon, Fr.: International Agency for Research on Cancer; 2012

<sup>iii</sup> American Cancer Society. Pancreatic Cancer Overview. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2015

<sup>iv</sup> National Cancer Institute. Pancreatic Cancer Treatment –for health professionals (PDQ®). National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health; 2015

<sup>v</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2015

<sup>vi</sup> Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program. SEER Stat Fact Sheets: Pancreas Cancer; 2015. National Cancer Institute

<sup>vii</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2015, p17

<sup>viii</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2015, p.20

<sup>ix</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2015, p.20

<sup>x</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2015. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2015, p.2-3

<sup>xi</sup> Rahib L., et al. Cancer Res 2014;74(11):2913–21)

<sup>xii</sup> Data presented at ASCO 2014 (Abrams et al.)

<sup>xiii</sup> National Cancer Institute. Pancreatic Cancer Treatment –for health professionals (PDQ®). National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health; 2015