

## Gastrointestinal Oncology Program

The Gastrointestinal Oncology Program at The University of Arizona Cancer Center at St. Joseph's offers a full range of clinical services for the treatment of patients with cancers of the gastrointestinal tract. The care of every patient is coordinated by a team of experts with specialty training in surgical oncology, radiation oncology, and medical oncology – a group whose clinical expertise and research interests are focused on the treatment of cancers of the gastrointestinal tract. This team is fully supported by professionals in radiology, gastroenterology, pathology, genetics, patient advocacy, nutrition, social work, and supportive care.

### UPDATED TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatments offered to patients at the Cancer Center are dramatically different as compared to cancer care a decade ago. Using precision medicine, Cancer Center patients have available to them novel cancer treatments that target the genetic and molecular changes in a tumor, while immunotherapy helps the patients' own immune system attack their cancer. Apart from this, using minimally invasive approaches through

cutting edge technology (robotic-assisted surgery, advanced laparoscopy, and trans-anal minimally invasive surgery) in the surgical management of cancers of the gastrointestinal tract has resulted in improved patient outcomes with regard to hospital length of stay, postoperative pain control, and smaller incisions without compromising quality and oncologic outcomes.

In the field of radiation oncology, besides state-of-the-art image-guided radiation therapy with precise delivery to radiation targets, the Cancer Center offers specialized treatment using HDR brachytherapy for esophagus, anal, and rectal cancers, and cholangiocarcinoma for recurrent and palliative options. In fact, the Cancer Center offers the whole spectrum of advanced techniques with both Linac-based SBRT with TruebeamR and Cyberknife R for liver and pancreatic cancers.

### DISEASE-SPECIFIC CARE PLAN

Each patients' final care plan is carefully formulated after rigorous evaluation of imaging and pathology, and review of current evidence and available clinical trials during a multidisciplinary gastrointestinal tumor board conference.

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### CLINICAL TRIALS

Key breakthroughs in cancer care are possible only through clinical trials and research. The Cancer Center currently has a portfolio of trials to evaluate the newest research concepts in cancer medicine, including cancers of the gastrointestinal tract.

The goal of the Gastrointestinal Oncology Program at the Cancer Center is to provide patients with precision-medicine patient care plans and state-of-the-art treatment therapies, as well as access to a wide range of clinical trials – from cancer prevention to novel treatments – for the best possible outcomes.