PANCREATIC CANCER FACTS

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK®

- Pancreatic cancer is the **third leading cause of cancer-related death** in the United States.[1]
- Pancreatic cancer is the world's toughest cancer, with a five-year survival rate of just 13%.[1]
- In 2025, an estimated 67,440 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States, and approximately 51,980 will die from the disease.[1]
- Pancreatic cancer is the 10th most commonly diagnosed cancer in Americans.[1]
- Risk factors for developing pancreatic cancer include family history of the disease, age, chronic or hereditary pancreatitis, smoking, obesity and long-standing diabetes. These and other risk factors are still being investigated.
- Pancreatic cancer may cause only **vague symptoms** that could indicate many different conditions within the abdomen or gastrointestinal tract. Symptoms include pain (usually abdominal or back pain), weight loss, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), loss of appetite, nausea, changes in stool and recent-onset diabetes.
- The location of the pancreas deep in the abdominal cavity is a factor **hindering early detection** of pancreatic cancer.
- Surgical removal of the tumor is possible in less than 20% of patients with adenocarcinoma, the most common type of pancreatic cancer. Chemotherapy or chemotherapy with radiation may be offered before or after surgery.
- Chemotherapy or other drug therapies are typically offered to patients whose tumors cannot be removed surgically. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network's guidelines for the treatment of pancreatic cancer state that **clinical trials are the preferred option for treatment.**
- There are complex biological features of a pancreatic tumor that distinguish it from many other cancer types — and each patient's pancreatic tumor biology and genetic makeup are slightly different. Patients who are treated based on their biology can live longer.
- High-priority research areas being explored in pancreatic cancer include identifying biomarkers for early detection, developing drugs that target specific gene mutations, understanding how the tumor microenvironment alters drug delivery and harnessing the immune system for the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

Sources for statistics:
1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2025. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2025

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