



Comprehensive **Surgical Care** for Gastrointestinal Cancers

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center combines the expertise of board-certified, fellowship-trained surgeons with the latest surgical techniques to deliver comprehensive care for patients with all types of gastrointestinal (GI) cancers.



Conditions We Treat

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center's team of expert surgeons provides comprehensive, individualized care for patients with all types of gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, including:

- Appendiceal cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma)
- Gallbladder cancer
- Melanoma
- Neuroendocrine tumors
- Pancreatic cancer
- Peritoneal carcinomatosis
- Peritoneal mesothelioma
- Soft tissue sarcomas
- Upper GI malignancies

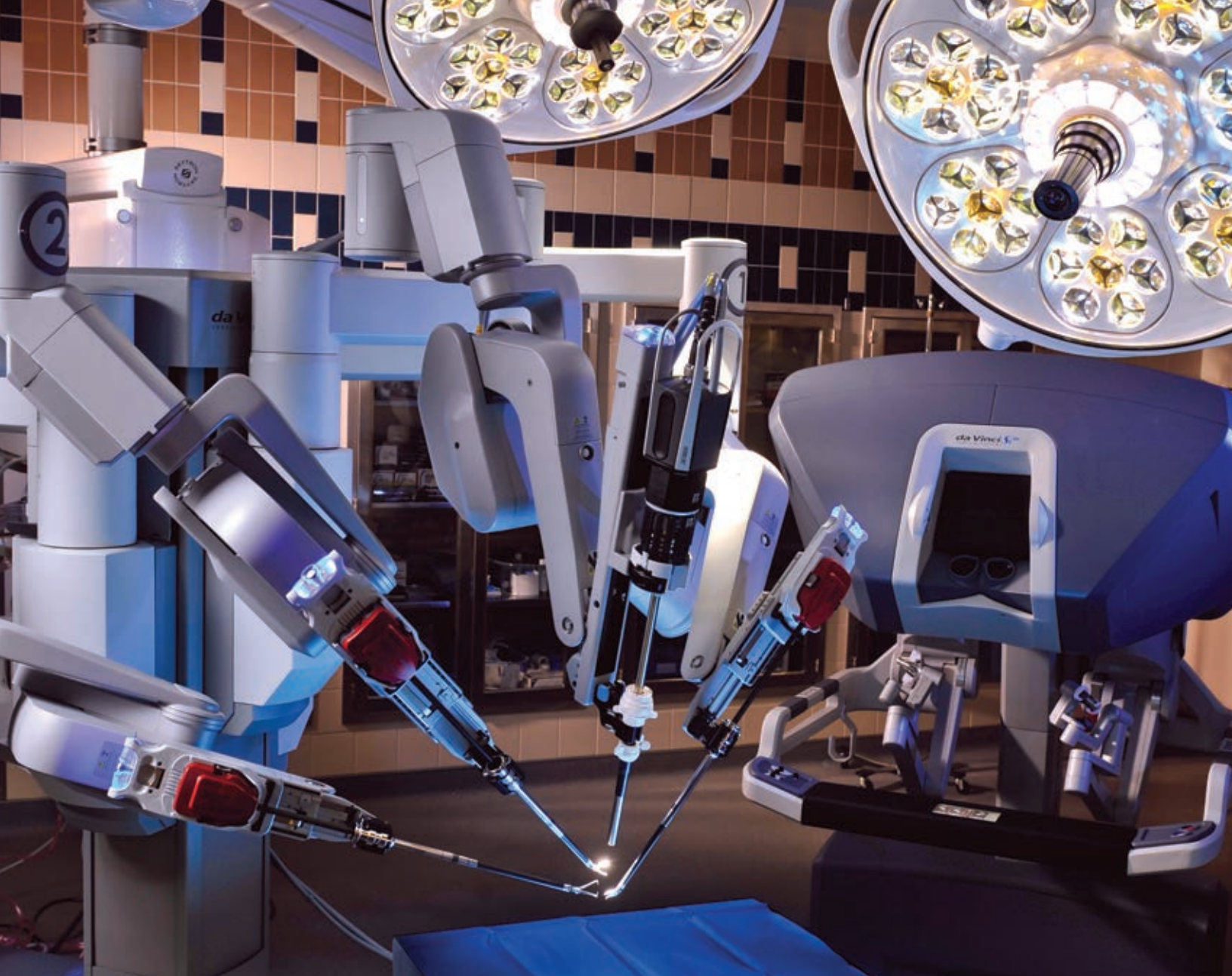
UPMC's surgeons have pioneered some of the most advanced and complex GI cancer surgeries and are among the most experienced in the United States. Some of our program highlights include:

- More experience with robotic Whipple surgeries than anyone else in the country, with more than 900 robotic Whipples, and more than 1,400 robotic pancreatic surgeries total
- More than 1,200 minimally invasive liver resections
- More than 2,100 cytoreductive surgery/hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemoperfusion (CRS/HIPEC) procedures

Treatment Options

Our experts work collaboratively to develop an effective, individualized treatment plan for each patient that may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, placement on clinical trials, or a combination of treatments to best meet their needs. We specialize in:

- **Single-incision laparoscopy:** A tiny incision is made in the navel, decreasing blood loss and post-surgical pain and improving recovery time.
- **Robotic pancreatectomy:** Using minimally invasive and robotic instruments, the surgeon can view the operating field in 3D when removing the pancreas with or without the spleen.
- **Laparoscopic liver resection:** Surgeons remove benign or malignant tumors of the liver through three or four keyhole-sized incisions.
- **Tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte therapy (TIL):** In this procedure, surgeons remove metastatic tumors, harvest the cancer-fighting lymphocytes from within these tumors, and expand them to create an army of cancer-fighting cells that are reinfused into the patient a few weeks later.
- **Sphincter-sparing rectal surgery:** During this procedure, the surgeon will remove the rectum and a small rim of normal bowel but not the anus, preventing the need for a colostomy.



- **Cytoreductive surgery with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemoperfusion (CRS/HIPEC):** Surgeons remove as many visible tumors as possible, then circulate heated chemotherapy solution through the affected area for several hours to kill cancer cells.
- **Radiofrequency and microwave ablation (RFA & MWA):** For people with inoperable primary or metastatic liver tumors, RFA/MWA utilizes tiny electrodes and heat to destroy cancer cells. These are usually performed with a minimally invasive approach.
- **Regional liver perfusion therapies:** Treatments that deliver chemotherapy or radiation beads directly to the artery that supplies blood to the liver tumors.
- **Liver transplant:** For patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), who also have cirrhosis of the liver, a liver transplant may be an option.



Research and Clinical Trials

Our team conducts research to better understand the disease, enhance early diagnosis, and develop more effective treatments. Our current research initiatives include:

- Tumor infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy for bile duct, gallbladder, and other select GI tumors
- Immunotherapies for pancreatic cancer
- Investigational chemotherapy
- Radiation therapy
- Innovative chemoembolization
- Use of new viruses to destroy tumors
- Genetic research to improve early detection methods
- Molecular mechanisms responsible for apoptosis (programmed cell death) of liver cancer cells

Multidisciplinary Tumor Board

The surgical oncology team meets regularly to discuss patient outcomes, review best practices, and provide a resource for referring physicians. Referring physicians work collaboratively with our surgeons throughout the treatment process, helping to develop care plans and follow-up care.

Locations

- Digestive Disorders Center, UPMC Presbyterian
- UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Monroeville
- UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, UPMC Passavant
- UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside
- UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Shadyside
- UPMC Liver Cancer Center, Butler
- UPMC Liver Cancer Center, Farrell
- UPMC Liver Cancer Center, UPMC Northwest
- UPMC Montefiore

Learning Opportunities

Scan here for the latest videos featuring our expert surgeons and virtual CME opportunities.



Referring a Patient to Our Expert Team

GI surgical oncologists of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center are board-certified and fellowship-trained. They provide unparalleled expertise in the fight against cancer and other complex disorders.



Amer H. Zureikat, MD, FACS

*Professor & Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology
Director, Surgical Oncology Hillman Cancer Center
Director, Robotic Surgery, UPMC Health System, UPMC
Bernard F. Fisher Chair in Surgery*

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery

Fellowship: UPMC

Focus: Pancreatic cancer, liver cancer, upper GI malignancies, duodenum

Referrals: 412-692-2852



David A. Geller, MD

*Chief, Hepatobiliary Surgery, UPMC
Director, UPMC Liver Cancer Center
Richard L. Simmons Professor of Surgery, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery

Fellowship: UPMC

Focus: Liver cancer, laparoscopic liver resections, radiofrequency ablation of liver tumors

Referrals: 412-692-2001

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M. Haroon A. Choudry, MD, FACS

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowship: UPMC

Focus: Peritoneal surface malignancies, upper GI malignancies, melanoma

Referrals: 412-692-2852



Melanie C. Ongchin, MD, FACS

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowship: UPMC

Focus: Skin cancer, peritoneal metastases, mesothelioma, melanoma, sarcoma, upper gastrointestinal malignancies, colorectal cancer

Referrals: 412-748-6454



Matthew P. Holtzman, MD, FACS

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowship: UPMC

Focus: Peritoneal surface malignancies, melanoma, colorectal cancer

Referrals: 412-692-2852



Alessandro Paniccia, MD, FACS

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowships: University of Colorado, Denver, UPMC

Focus: Pancreatic cancer, upper GI malignancies, pancreatic disease

Referrals: 412-692-2852



Udai S. Kammula, MD, FACS

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowships: National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, N.Y.

Focus: Immunotherapy research and clinical trials

Referrals: 412-692-2852



James F. Pingpank, MD, FACS

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowship: Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia

Focus: Liver cancer, peritoneal surface malignancies, regional perfusion, melanoma

Referrals: 412-692-2852



Kenneth Lee, MD, FACS

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowship: University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Focus: Pancreatic cancer, upper GI malignancies dissections, breast biopsy, lumpectomy

Referrals: 412-692-2852



Samer T. Tohme, MD

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowship: UPMC

Focus: Liver cancer, robotic surgery

Referrals: 412-692-2001



Geoffrey R. Nunns, MD

Board Certification: American Board of Surgery
Fellowship: UPMC

Focus: GI malignancies, peritoneal carcinomatosis, skin and soft tissue tumors, melanoma, sarcoma, regional liver therapies

Referrals: 412-692-2852

About UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center connects patients to the integrated expertise of leading clinicians, academic researchers, specialty programs, and treatment centers. Designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute, we are accelerating the breakthroughs in our labs into clinical practice around the world. Backed by the collective strength of UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center is transforming cancer research, care, and prevention — one patient at a time.

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UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

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UPMCHillman.com

About UPMC

UPMC is a world-renowned, nonprofit health care provider and insurer committed to delivering exceptional, people-centered care and community services. Headquartered in Pittsburgh and affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences, UPMC is shaping the future of health through clinical and technological innovation, research, and education. Dedicated to advancing the well-being of our diverse communities, we provide more than \$1 billion every year in community benefits, more than any other health system in Pennsylvania. Our 95,000 employees — including more than 5,000 physicians — care for patients across 40 hospitals and 800 doctors' offices and outpatient sites in Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland, as well as overseas. UPMC Insurance Services covers 4.5 million members with a focus on providing the highest-quality care at the most affordable price. To learn more, visit [UPMC.com](https://www.upmc.com).