

Advanced Gastrointestinal and Thoracic Care, Closer to Home

Patients with complex gastrointestinal conditions and esophageal cancer can access advanced surgical treatment closer to home at UPMC Passavant-McCandless, as two additional procedures are now being offered:

- Peroral endoscopic myotomy to treat both achalasia, a rare swallowing disorder that affects your esophagus, and gastroparesis, a condition that affects your stomach muscles.
- Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) to treat patients with early-stage esophageal cancer and select high-risk patients who aren't candidates for surgery.

“Traditionally, these high-risk cancer patients needed to travel outside of UPMC to receive ESD. UPMC Passavant is the first hospital in the UPMC network to offer this advanced treatment,” says **Ryan Levy, MD**, chief of thoracic surgery at UPMC Passavant and co-chief of the Division of General Thoracic and Foregut Surgery at UPMC.



Ryan Levy, MD



Sultan Mahmood, MD

Dr. Levy and gastroenterologist **Sultan Mahmood, MD**, co-lead the multidisciplinary program.

“This program brings together specialists from different medical disciplines to provide comprehensive care for gastrointestinal and esophageal conditions,” says Dr. Mahmood. “By collaborating, we can develop tailored treatment plans to improve outcomes for patients.”

UPMC Passavant has one of the region’s most experienced thoracic surgery programs, completing nearly 1,300 procedures each year. And the GI Center performed 13,000 procedures in 2021.

Benefits of Minimally Invasive Procedures

During these minimally invasive endoscopic treatments, the physician uses an endoscope — a flexible tube inserted through the mouth — to see inside the esophagus and stomach. Patients can benefit from less scarring,

reduced pain, shorter hospital stays, and quicker recoveries.

“The addition of these services also enhances our ability to expedite care of our patients with esophageal cancer by improving access to endoscopic staging procedures. Patients no longer need to travel far for these interventions,” says Dr. Levy.

Dr. Mahmood trained at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a hospital of Harvard Medical School, where his team routinely offered these minimally invasive procedures. Across all of UPMC’s hospitals, peroral endoscopic myotomy is only available at UPMC Passavant and UPMC Presbyterian.

“We are excited to bring these cutting-edge procedures to patients in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh,” he adds.

A referral from your gastroenterologist, oncologist, or primary care provider is needed for an appointment with Dr. Levy or Dr. Mahmood.

Dr. Levy and his partners see patients in Greenville, McCandless, New Castle, Seneca, and Sewickley. For more information, call 412-748-5772.

Dr. Mahmood meets with patients in Wexford at Northern Gastroenterology—UPMC. For more information, call 724-933-1420.



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UPMC in the northern region of Pittsburgh is home to the advanced technology and top physicians you and your family deserve. With UPMC Passavant-McCandless and UPMC Passavant-Cranberry and an extensive network of primary and specialty care, including the renowned physicians and care of UPMC Magee, Hillman, Children’s, and the Heart and Vascular Institute, you don’t need to travel to the city. The expert care of UPMC is close to home.

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