



WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY

Frequently Asked Questions

What is World Pancreatic Cancer Day?

Held on November 19, 2020, World Pancreatic Cancer Day brings people around the world together to highlight the need for greater awareness, funding and research for pancreatic cancer.

There is a time for everything and World Pancreatic Cancer Day is our moment to learn more about the risks and symptoms of pancreatic cancer. On this day, we push to do more; to learn, to teach, to advocate for the medical community and the world to take notice. Because, when it comes to this deadly disease, it's all about time. Imagine if husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, daughters, sons and friends facing pancreatic cancer had more time through earlier detection? For those who receive a life-shattering diagnosis, survival is most often measured in months — sometimes even weeks or days. Early detection matters. Time matters. Every moment counts.

We need more attention, awareness and progress to help patients fight for and survive this disease. So, today, World Pancreatic Cancer Day, the pancreatic cancer community is united in our commitment to accelerate progress in our fight against the world's toughest cancer, starting with earlier detection.

Who are the partners for World Pancreatic Cancer Day?

World Pancreatic Cancer Day is an initiative of the World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition (the "Coalition"), which consists of more than 90 organizations from 35 countries and 6 continents.

In addition to promoting World Pancreatic Cancer Day and other educational efforts, the Coalition facilitates the sharing of best practices among its member organizations on an array of important topics, including: patient information and support, research, clinical trials, advocacy and policy, healthcare professional training and more.

For more information about World Pancreatic Cancer Day and the Coalition members, visit www.worldpancreaticcancercoalition.org

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How can I make a difference?

There are many ways to show your support and take action:

- First, know the symptoms and risks of this disease. Visit our website www.worldpancreaticcancercoalition.org for infographics and information to help you identify the symptoms and risks of pancreatic cancer. Our website also has useful resources and links to pancreatic cancer organizations in your country/region.
- It's all about time. We need to move quickly to spread the word and share our materials to help educate your family, friends, coworkers and social media followers about the symptoms and risks and what to do to support earlier diagnosis.

Here are other ways to get involved:

- Follow us on social media:
Instagram: [@worldpancreatic](https://www.instagram.com/worldpancreatic)
Twitter: [@worldpcc](https://twitter.com/worldpcc)
Facebook: [@worldpancreaticcancerday](https://www.facebook.com/worldpancreaticcancerday)
- Temporarily change your Facebook or Instagram profile picture to support WPCD and post using hashtag **#WPCD**, **#ItsAboutTime** (primary), and/or **#PancreaticCancer**, **#WorldPancreaticCancerDay**, **#PancreaticCancerAwareness** or **#EarlyDetection**
- Wear purple on WPCD (Nov. 19).
- Light [clocks](#), building, monuments or homes purple.
- Ask your public officials to support more government funding of pancreatic cancer research.
- Support your local [Pancreatic Cancer Coalition Member](#).

What is a pancreas?

The pancreas is found behind the stomach and in front of the spine. It produces digestive enzymes that help the body use and store energy and also regulates blood sugar levels.

What is pancreatic cancer?

Pancreatic cancer occurs when abnormal cells develop and grow out of control, causing tumors. In nearly every country, pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate of all major cancers (8-14%). [Source](#)

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What causes pancreatic cancer?

The cause of the majority of pancreatic cancer cases is unknown. There is evidence that age, smoking, being overweight, a family history of pancreatic cancer, pancreatitis, and diabetes may increase your risk of pancreatic cancer.

What are the symptoms of pancreatic cancer?

Common symptoms of pancreatic cancer include: abdominal or mid-back pain, unexplained weight loss, jaundice, loss of appetite, indigestion, changes in stool and new-onset diabetes. These symptoms are often vague and generally are attributed initially to other less serious and more common conditions.

Is there a test for pancreatic cancer?

There is no standard screening test for pancreatic cancer, which makes it vital for people to know the symptoms and risks. We know that pancreatic cancer disproportionately affects [racial/ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations](#). Therefore, it's particularly important to push for early detection among these more vulnerable communities.

Early diagnosis is key for pancreatic cancer. Patients diagnosed in time for surgery are more likely to live five years and beyond. The sooner you are diagnosed, the more chance you'll be eligible for surgery and the sooner you can receive treatment, enroll in a clinical trial and get the support that will empower you to fight and survive this disease.

How common is pancreatic cancer?

Every day, more than 1,257 people worldwide will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and an estimated 1,184 will die from the disease. [Source](#).

It is estimated that in 2025, 557,688 cases will be diagnosed globally. [Source](#)

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