

WPCCC Key Messages



WORLD PANCREATIC
CANCER COALITION

Key Messages

1. Clinical Trials

Key message: The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition strongly recommends that everyone diagnosed with pancreatic cancer is given the opportunity to take part in a clinical trial.

Evidence: Pancreatic cancer patients who participate in clinical research have better outcomes. Clinical trials can advance research and improve treatment options

2. Diet and Nutrition

key message: The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition recommends that everyone diagnosed with pancreatic cancer has their nutritional needs assessed by someone with nutritional expertise, is offered information about diet and nutrition, and has access to pancreatic enzymes.

Evidence: Nutritional care, including supplemental pancreatic enzymes, improves pancreatic cancer patient outcomes and is critical for quality of life.

3. Patient Support

Key message: The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition recommends that all patients and their family and caregivers are provided information about where to access support.

Evidence: Support for pancreatic cancer patients improves quality of life and overall well-being, yet patients report high levels of unmet supportive care needs.

Key message: The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition recommends that pancreatic cancer patients have their symptom management and supportive care needs addressed at all stages of treatment.

Evidence: Access to healthcare professionals who focus on symptom management and supportive care improves outcomes and is critical for quality of life.

4. High Risk Individuals

Key message: The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition recommends increased awareness of family history and access to genetic counselling to assess individual risk, as well as testing for those who are eligible.

Evidence: People with two or more first-degree relatives who have had pancreatic cancer, a first-degree relative who developed pancreatic cancer before the age of 50, or an inherited genetic syndrome associated with pancreatic cancer may have an increased risk of developing pancreatic cancer.



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5. Pancreatic Cancer Symptoms

Key message: The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition recommends increased awareness of pancreatic cancer and the following symptoms that people may experience:

- Abdominal and mid-back pain
- Unexplained weight loss
- Yellow skin or eyes
- Changes in stool
- New-onset diabetes
- Digestive problems
- Loss of appetite
- Mood change

Evidence: Pancreatic cancer often doesn't cause any signs or symptoms in the early stages, and symptoms can be vague.

6. Pancreatic Cancer Risks

Key message: The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition recommends increased awareness of the following pancreatic cancer risks:

- Inherited genetic mutations
- Family history of pancreatic cancer
- Family history of other cancers
- Diabetes
- Pancreatitis (chronic and hereditary)
- Smoking
- Obesity
- Race (ethnicity)
- Age
- Diet

Evidence: Research studies have identified the above as risk factors that may increase the likelihood that someone will develop pancreatic cancer.