



WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY?

Held on 17 November 2022, 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 OUR PARTNERS FOR WORLD PANCREATIC CANCER DAY?

World Pancreatic Cancer Day is an initiative of the World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition (the "Coalition"), which consists of over 100 organizations from 37 countries and six 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:

- **Know the symptoms and risks** of this disease. [Visit our website](#) for infographics 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.
- **Share your stories.** To create greater global impact with our World Pancreatic Cancer Day Campaign in 2022, we are continuing our search for stories from those affected to help highlight “The Importance of Time” in our lives as it relates to this devastating disease. If you have been affected by pancreatic cancer in any way, [visit this link](#) and share your story. It could save lives.
- **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](#)
 - ➔ **Twitter:** [@worldpcc](#)
 - ➔ **Facebook:** [@worldpancreaticcancerday](#)
- Temporarily change your Facebook or Instagram profile picture to support WPCD and post using the hashtags **#ItsAboutTime** and/or **#WPCD**.
- Wear purple on WPCD (17 Nov).
- Light [clocks](#), buildings, 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.

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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](#).

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, yellow eyes or skin (jaundice), itchy skin, 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. **IF YOU HAVE JAUNDICE, CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THE OTHER SYMPTOMS FOR MORE THAN A COUPLE WEEKS, DON'T WAIT. REACH OUT TO YOUR DOCTOR. YOU USE THE PANCREATIC CANCER RISK & SYMPTOM CHECK LIST TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR TALKING WITH YOUR DOCTOR.**

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 ([source](#)). 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 1,358 people worldwide will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and an estimated 1,277 will die from the disease ([source](#)). It is estimated in 2025 that 564,930 cases will be diagnosed globally ([source](#)). For more information, [visit our website](#).

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