#### GI MALIGNANCIES

Julie Harris, FNP, MSN

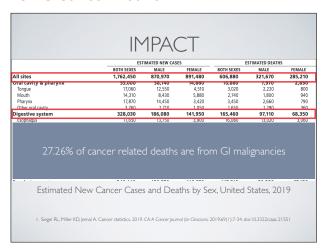
#### WHAT IS CANCER?

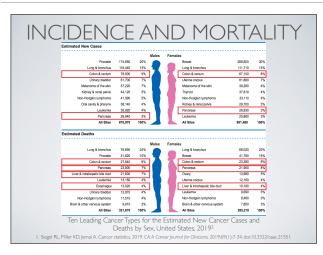
- The National Comprehensive Cancer Network defines cancer as, "a disease of cells that have an abnormal life cycle and grow or spread into other tissue''
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States<sup>2</sup>
- . Patient and Caregiver Resources Dictionary <u>NDCDN.org https://www.ncrn.org/patients/resources/dictionary/default.seps.</u> Publish March 9, 2019. S. Segel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2019. *CA:A Cancer Journal for Cinicions*, 2019.69(1):7-34. doi:10.3322/caac.21551

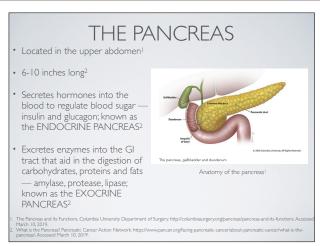
#### **OVERVIEW**

• GI malignancies include cancers of the esophagus, stomach, liver, biliary tract, gallbladder, pancreas, small bowel, colon, rectum, and anus









#### PANCREATIC CANCER

- Most common malignancy of the pancreas is **PANCREATIC** DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA (PDAC)<sup>1</sup>, or cancer of the exocrine pancreas<sup>2</sup>
- PDAC is the 3rd most common cause of cancer-related deaths!
- PDAC is projected to surpass colorectal cancer in cancer-related deaths by 2020
- PDAC overall (all stages) 5 year survival is only 7.7%

Denko JW, firm ME/Katz MHA: Brucreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. In Feig BW, Ching CD, ed. The MD Anderson Surgical Oncology Hondbook Philadelph ReWiderics Nikuez-2019 3:384-12.

The Parreas and Its Functions. Columbia University Department of Surgery. http://columbiasurgery.org/pancreas/pancreas-and-sts-functions. Accesses March 10, 2019.

#### **RISK FACTORS**

- · Cigarette smoking
- Alcohol use
- History of pancreatitis
- Diabetes mellitus

Denbo JW, Kim MP, Katz MH.G. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. In Feig BW, Ching CD, ed. The MD Anderson Surgical Oncology Handbook Philadi A:Wolters Kluwer; 2019: 398-412.

#### PRESENTING SYMPTOMS

- Obstructive jaundice (50%)
- Weight loss
- Abdominal pain, frequently radiates to the back between the shoulder blades
- Recent diagnosis of type II diabetes

#### WORK UP AND STAGING

- Pancreatic protocol CT scan, including chest
- evaluate tumor relationship to surrounding vasculature
- evaluate nodal involvement
- · evaluate for distant metastases (commonly liver, peritoneum, lung)



CT image of resectable pancreas mass (yellow arrow)

uppel BL, Tolat P, Oshima K, Evans DB, Tsai S. Clinical and pathology staging for pancreatic cancer. In Morita SY, Balch CM, Klimberg VS, Pawlik TM, Posni IC, Tanabe KK, ed. Textbook of Complex General Surgical Oncology. New York: McGraw-Hill Education; 2018: 1554-1565.

#### WORK UP AND STAGING

- · Endoscopic ultrasound
  - · Evaluate tumor and nodal status
  - · Obtain tissue biopsy for diagnosis
  - Evaluate tumor relationship to nearby vasculature
- Tumor markers
  - CA 19-9 (not sensitive or specific for pancreas cancer)

ic ductal adenocarcinoma. In Feig BW, Ching CD, ed. The MD Anders

- Table 1. Definitions for T, N, M
  American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) TNM Staging of Pancreatic Cancer (8th ed., 2017) Primary Tumor
- Primary tumor cannot be assessed
- No evidence of primary tumor
- Carcinoma in situ
  This includes high-grade pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia
  (PanIn-3), intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm with highgrade dysplasia, intraductal tubulopapillary neoplasm with high-grade dysplasia, and mucinous cystic neoplasm with high-grade dysplasia Tumor ≤2 cm in greatest dimension
- T1a Tumor ≤0.5 cm in greatest dimension
- T1b Tumor >0.5 cm and <1 cm in greatest dimension
  T1c Tumor 1–2 cm in greatest dimension
- Tumor >2 cm and ≤4 cm in greatest dimension
- Tumor >4 cm in greatest dimension Tumor involves the celiac axis, superior mesenteric artery, and/or common hepatic artery, regardless of size

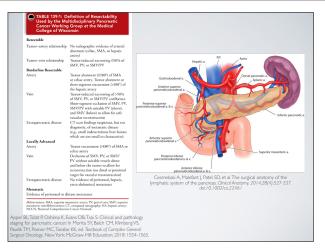
- - N Regional Lymph Nodes NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assesseds
  - No regional lymph node metastases
  - N1 Metastasis in one to three regional lymph nodes
  - N2 Metastasis in four or more regional lymph nodes

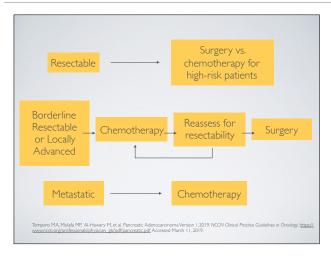
  - M0 No distant metastases
  - M1 Distant metastasis
  - Table 2. AJCC Prognostic Groups

Stage 0	Tis	N0	N	
Stage IA	T1	N0		
Stage IB T2		N0		
Stage IIA	T3	N0	N	
Stage IIB	T1, T2, T3	N1	N	
Stage III	T1 T2 T3	N2	N	

Anv N MO Any T







## SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- Pancreaticoduodenectomy (Whipple)
  - For tumors to the right of the superior mesenteric artery and portal vein



Whipple Procedure. Baylor College of Medicine. https://www.bcm.edu/healthcare/care-centers/pancreas-center/procedures/whipple-procedures/ Accessed March 11, 2019.

## SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- Distal pancreatectomy and splenectomy
  - For tumors to the left of the superior mesenteric artery and portal vein



Distal Pancreatectomy and Splenectomy, Baylor College of Medicine. https://www.bcm.edu/healthcare/care-centers/pancreas-center/procedures/dista pancreatectomy-splenectomy. Accessed March 11, 2019.

## SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- · Pre-operative optimization
  - Nutrition
  - Diabetes control
- Optimization of medical co-morbities (cardiac and respiratory especially)
- · Post-operative considerations
  - ~5-10 day hospital stay
  - ~12-16 week post-op recovery
  - Risks of pancreatic leak, gastroparesis, exocrine pancreatic insufficiency
  - · Post-op nutritional deficits
  - \* Post-op endurance deficits

#### CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIATION

- Recommended chemotherapy for resectable, borderline resectable, or locally advanced pancreatic cancer is 6 months of chemo, given every other week.
  - imperative in treatment of pancreas cancer as 80-90% of patients who receive a "curative" resection will develop recurrence
  - specific regimen is largely chosen based on patient's medical co-morbidities, functional status, and tolerance of chosen regimen

Denbo JW, Kim MP, Katz MHG. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. In Feig BW, Ching CD, ed. The MD Anderson Surgical Oncology Handbook Philadelphia PA: Wolters Kluwer; 2019: 398-412.

#### CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIATION

- May precede surgery (neoadjuvant)
  - · requires definitive tissue diagnosis prior to initiation
- may allow for tumor down-staging and improved surgical resection
- allows time for clinically progressive or occult disease to be identified, and may spare an unnecessary operation
- May follow surgery (adjuvant)
  - up to 50% of patients who receive surgery first will not finish chemotherapy due to surgery related complications
  - · does not allow for possible tumor down-staging prior to surgery

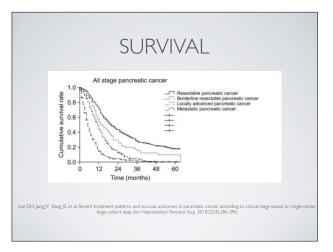
Denbo JW, Kim MP, Katz MHG. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. In Feig BW, Ching CD, ed. The MD Anderson Surgical Oncology Handbook Philadelphi PA: Wolters Kluwer; 2019: 398-412.

#### SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance every 3–6 mo for 2 years, then every 6–12 mo as clinically indicated:

- H&P for symptom assessment
- CA 19-9 level
- (category 2B)
- Consider chest CT and CT or MRI of abdomen and pelvis with contrast (category 2B)

Tempero MA, Molafa MP, Al-Hawary M, et al. Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Version 1.2019. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. https://



- 56 yo AAM newly diagnosed with DM2. Otherwise in usual state of health, no significant medical problems. Active, no physical limitations.
- I month later develops painless jaundice and pruritus
- Referred to local gastroenterologist who completed lab work up and liver biopsy (not revealing)
- 2 months after development of painless jaundice pt was admitted to UNC with total bilirubin level 35x upper limit of normal

## CASE STUDY

- CT scan abd/pelvis demonstrated 3.5 cm pancreatic head mass with marked biliary ductal dilatation and pancreatic ductal dilatation s/t obstruction. Mass abuts portal vein. No lymphadenopathy noted.
- Endoscopic ultrasound revealed 3 cm pancreatic head mass with biliary obstruction. Abutment of portal vein. FNA completed.
- ERCP with metal common bile duct stent placement.

- FNA (biopsy) results revealed pancreatic adenocarcinoma
- CT chest completed for final staging no evidence of metastatic disease to the chest
- · CA 19.9 within normal limits
- Tumor was deemed borderline resectable due to abutment of portal vein
- Patient referred to Medical Oncology for initiation of chemotherapy

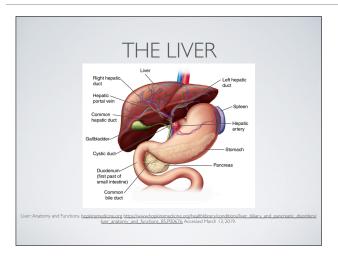
#### CASE STUDY

 Interval scans after 4 cycles, 7 cycles and 12 cycles of chemotherapy revealed stable mass in the head of the pancreas with continued abutment of portal vein

#### CASE STUDY

- Patient was taken to the OR for surgical resection (Whipple) 4 weeks after last chemo treatment
- Post-op course was uneventful and patient was discharged home on post op day 6
- Final pathology revealed ypTIcNI (1/34 nodes) with positive margins

- Final pathology results were reviewed at UNC's GI multidisciplinary tumor board with recommendations for patient to undergo radiation therapy due to positive surgical margins
- Patient was referred to Radiation Oncology as recommended, and is currently completing course of radiation therapy
- After completion of treatment, patient will begin surveillance regimen including history and physicals, labs, and CT scans at regular intervals



#### THE LIVER

- · Located in the right upper quadrant of the abdomen
- Produces bile which aids the digestion of fats and removes waste from liver excreting into the intestines, and ultimately feces
- Produces proteins found in plasma
- Produces cholesterol
- Storage of excess glucose (glycogen) and creation of glucose when needed (gluconeogenesis)
- Regulates protein levels / protein metabolism
- Processes hemoglobin and stores iron
- Filters blood of toxins (including medications)
- Regulates blood clotting
- · Clears bilirubin (a byproduct of red blood cells) via the bile

Liver: Anatomy and Functions, <u>hopkinsmedicine org https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/healthilbrary/conditions/liver\_biliary\_and\_pancreatic\_disorders</u>
<u>liver\_anatomy\_and\_functions\_85.P00676\_</u> Accessed March 13, 2019.

10

#### HEPATOCELLUAR CARCINOMA

- Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is cancer of the liver cells
- 5th most common cause of cancer in the world
- 3rd most common cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide
- Rates of HCC are rising, with incidence tripling in the US since 1970
- 5 year survival rate for HCC (all stages) is 16%
- 90% of HCC develops in the setting of cirrhosis

Qadan M, Jamagin WR. Hepatocellular carcinoma. In Morita SY, Balch CM, Klimberg VS, Pawlik TM, Posner MC, Tanabe KK, ed. Textbook of Complex General Survical Oncology, New York: McGraw-Hill Education; 2018; 1365-1378.

## RISK FACTORS FOR HCC

- Hepatitis B virus most common cause of HCC in the World<sup>1</sup>
- Hepatitis C virus most common cause of HCC in the Western world
- Alcoholic cirrhosis<sup>1</sup>
- Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)<sup>1</sup> / Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)<sup>2</sup>
- Metabolic disorders (hemochromatosis, Wilsons disease, alpha-I antitrypsin deficiency)<sup>2</sup>

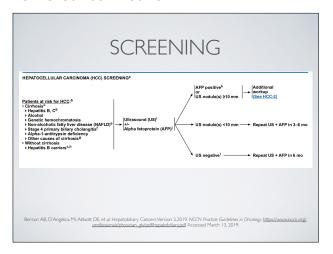
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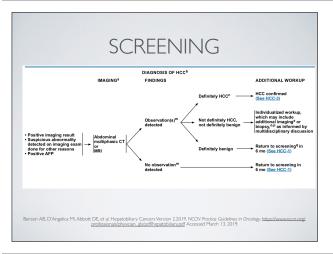
Snyder RA, Vaurthey JN, Hepatobilary Cancers. In Feig BW, Ching CD. Per MD. Anderson Surgical Oncology: Handbook: Philadelphia, PA:Wolters Kluw 2019;357-397.

- · "The purpose of a cancer screening test is to identify the presence of specific cancer in an asymptomatic individual in a situation where early detection has the potential to favorably impact patient outcomes."
- Screening for HCC is recommended for those with cirrhosis caused by:
  - Hepatitis B and C
  - Alcoholic cirrhosis
- NASH / NAFLD
- · Primary biliary cholangitis

Benson AB, D'Angelica MI, Abbott DE, et al. Hepatobiliary Cancers Version 2.2019. NCCN Practice Guidelines in Oncology. https://www professionals/physician\_els/pdf/hepatobiliary.pdf Accessed March 13, 2019.

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## PRESENTING SYMPTOMS

- · Can be asymptomatic
- Upper abdominal pain or discomfort
- Palpable upper abdominal mass
- Weight loss
- Ascites
- <5% present with tumor rupture

Snyder RA, Vauthey JN. Hepatobiliary Cancers. In Feig BW, Ching CD, ed. The MD. Anderson Surgical Oncology Handbook. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluw 2019:357-397.

## WORK UP AND STAGING

- · Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP)
  - tumor marker increased in 50-90% of patients with HCC
  - not sensitive or specific for HCC
- Imaging studies can be diagnostic with HCC (don't necessarily need a tissue diagnosis)
  - CT
  - · MRI
  - · Ultrasound (false negative rate of 50%)
- Tissue diagnosis should be performed if imaging and tumor markers are equivocal

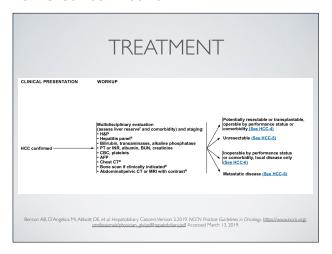
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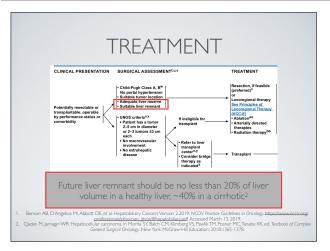
## WORK UP AND STAGING

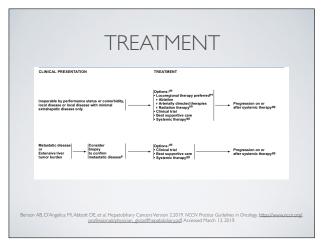


CT of hepatocellular carcinoma

# WORK UP AND STAGING







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# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- · Pre-operative optimization
  - Nutrition
  - Optimization of medical co-morbities (cardiac and respiratory especially)
- · Post-operative considerations
  - ~5-7 day hospital stay
  - ~12-16 week post-op recovery
  - · Post-op endurance deficits
  - · Liver will regenerate over the course of a days to weeks

Qadan M, Jamagin WR. Hepatocellular carcinoma. In Morita SY, Balch CM, Klimberg VS, Pawlik TM, Posner MC, Tanabe KK, ed. Textbook of Complex General Surgical Oncology. New York: McGraw-Hill Education; 2018;1365-1378.

## SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Surgical risks
  - Bleeding
  - Infections
  - Liver failure

#### SURVEILLANCE

Imaging ce every 3-6 mo for 2 y, then every 6-12 mo
AFP, every 3-6 mo for 2 y, then every 6-12 mo
See relevant pathway (HCC-2 through HCC-6) if disease recurs

 Refer to a hepatologist for a discussion of antiviral therapy for carriers of hepatitis

Benson AB, D'Angelica MI, Abbott DE, et al. Hepatobiliary Cancers Version 2.2019. NCCN Practice Guidelines in Oncology. https://www.nccn.org/ professionals/physician\_els/pdf/hepatobiliary.pdf Accessed March 13, 2019.

- 57 yo F presents to ED with new, sudden onset RUQ abdominal pain  $\times$   $\,$  I day
- PMH of obesity, hypertension and hyperlipidemia
- · Labs within normal limits
- CT scan obtained demonstrating large left hepatic mass, imaging favored benign hepatic lesion
- Patient was admitted for serial CBCs to monitor Hgb levels due to concern of bleeding into liver mass

#### CASE STUDY

- Hepatitis A, B and C serologies were sent all negative
- AFP obtained elevated
- CA 19.9 (tumor marker used mostly in pancreas cancer and cancer of the biliary system) obtained negative
- CEA (tumor marker for colon cancer) obtained —
   negative

#### CASE STUDY

- Pt was discharged on hospital day 2 with improved pain, and stable blood counts
- Follow up as an outpatient included:
  - upper endoscopy and colonoscopy to rule out any possibility of upper or lower GI cancers with a metastasis to her liver negative
  - percutaneous biopsy of liver mass biopsy proved HCC

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UNC Cancer Network Presented on March 18, 2019

## CASE STUDY

- Preoperative imaging was reviewed in detail, and patient was determined to have a resectable tumor based on hepatic vascular anatomy and future liver remnant. She was not a candidate for liver transplant based on size of her tumor.
- She underwent left hepatectomy several weeks after initial presentation with symptoms
- She did very well post-operatively and was discharged home on POD 5
- Final pathology revealed HCC with negative margins
- Patient is currently recovering from surgery, and doing very well



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