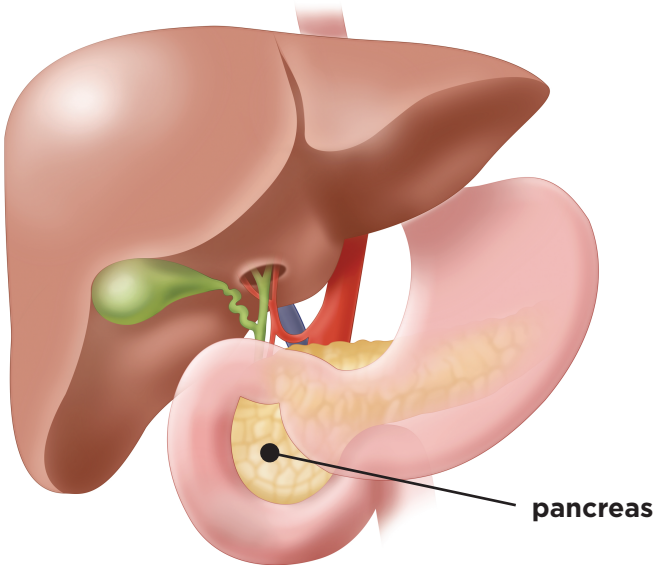




THE PANCREAS AND PANCREATIC CANCER FACTS

What is the pancreas?



- It's an organ about 6 inches long, deep in the abdomen between the stomach and the spine
- It has both endocrine and exocrine functions – meaning it secretes proteins into the bloodstream and into other tissues
- It releases digestive juices, also known as digestive or pancreatic enzymes into the small intestine through its exocrine function
- The endocrine function consists of islet cells that produce the blood sugar-regulating hormones insulin (to lower blood sugar) and glucagon (to raise blood sugar) that are secreted into the bloodstream

Pancreatic Cancer Facts:

- Cancer begins in cells and the tissues of the pancreas and other organs.
- There are two main types of pancreatic cancer:
 - 1) Pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PDAC), which is a tumor formed in the exocrine cells of the pancreatic ducts. PDAC accounts for 95% of pancreatic cancer
 - 2) The remaining 5% of pancreatic tumors form in the endocrine cells, also known as neuroendocrine or islet cell tumors
- Pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all major cancers. It is currently the 3rd leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States after lung and colon.
- In 2020 an estimated 57,600 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the U.S., and more than 47,050 will die from the disease.
- For all stages combined, the 5-year relative survival rate is 9%.

Sources:

American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2020
Additional pancreas information from Columbia University

Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
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