CLINICAL TRIALS

The goal of the Center for Thoracic Cancers is to treat patients through an approach that represents the forefront of clinical care, which in some cases is on a clinical trial. The Center focuses much of their clinical research on areas of thoracic oncology where the standard treatment is unsatisfactory or where the optimal treatment approach remains unclear. In these areas, many patients are enrolled in a clinical trial providing them access to innovative therapy options for their advanced disease, including immunotherapy treatments, which were first used in clinical trials at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

The Yale Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) in Lung Cancer grant is one of only three in the country from the National Cancer Institute and harnesses the strengths of academic cancer centers by bringing together experts in oncology, immunology, pharmacology, molecular biology, pathology, epidemiology, and addiction science to collaborate on projects focused on non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), one of the world’s most prevalent forms of cancer. Recent studies conducted by Yale researchers have resulted in new treatment options for patients, including a new drug combination for patients with advanced NSCLC who previously were treated with a checkpoint inhibitor. Advances have also been made in immunotherapy treatment options for patients with NSCLC.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

For more information or to schedule an appointment with a member of the Center for Thoracic Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center, please contact (203) 200-5864. Our goal is to ensure that each patient has an outstanding and positive cancer care experience. When you call, a patient intake coordinator will help to arrange your appointments so that you will see all of the specialists needed during an initial visit.

We provide both in-person and telehealth visits, although we recommend that the first visit be in-person to allow a better assessment of your overall condition. We also work in close coordination with our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers, which are conveniently located across the state and often offer our patients another family for closer trips for treatments and check-ups, while still receiving the same high standard of care.
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The Center for Thoracic Cancers

AT SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL AND YALE CANCER CENTER
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
Our medical oncologists are nationally recognized for their leadership and expertise in lung cancer treatment and research, and are dedicated to offering personalized treatment options. They offer expertise in both traditional chemotherapy and targeted therapies, including new drugs specifically designed for cancer treatment.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY
Our radiation oncologists offer care and rely on highly advanced technology to deliver targeted treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) provides advanced radiation treatment to lung cancer patients. SBRT significantly reduces the side effects of radiation treatment and results in less radiation delivered to surrounding tissue and fewer side effects.

SUPPORT SERVICES
The Smilow Interventional Oncology Program offers cutting edge specialized services to assist at all stages of the treatment continuum. The program includes a Multidisciplinary Pain Program, in collaboration with other services such as Palliative Care, as well as the Tobacco Treatment Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The program provides integrative pain medicine for patients who suffer from pain as a result of their cancer treatment, and aims to help patients quit smoking by combining counseling and drug treatment. Additional resources for our patients and their families include nutritional counseling, physical therapy, art therapy, and pastoral support.

INTERVENTIONAL ONCOLOGY
The Interventional Oncology Program offers endovascular specialized services, supporting all disciplines at Smilow Cancer Hospital. For the care of patients with thoracic malignancies, our interventional oncologists offer image guided therapies, among other services. These innovative therapies enable patients to avoid surgery or operate in a minimally invasive fashion, which may be the ideal treatment for patients with multiple comorbidities or those with a high surgical risk.
INTERVENTIONAL ONCOLOGY

The Center for Thoracic Cancers provides access to highly technically advanced, radiation therapy treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) minimizes the size of the radiation field, delivering a concentrated dose of radiation to a specific target while minimizing surrounding tissue damage in the liver.

Radioembolization (Y90): a minimally invasive procedure that combines embolization and targeted radiotherapy. Tiny glass or resin beads filled with the radioactive isotope yttrium Y-90 are injected into the blood vessels feeding tumors, sparing healthy tissue from the radiation treatment. Radioembolization is only available on an investigational basis.

• Brachytherapy: short-term radiation using radioactive seeds placed in or near the tumor. Brachytherapy is considered to be a part of definitive treatment for small, early-stage cancers.

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Our medical oncologists are nationally recognized for their leadership and expertise in lung cancer treatment and research and are dedicated to offering personalized treatment options to patients who have been diagnosed with lung cancer. These highly experienced physicians help the patient look for specific mutations that could target therapy by evaluation. They are currently FDA approved lung cancer treatments for tumor genetic testing abnormalities in EGFR, ALK, ROS1, RET and NTRK genes.

Recent studies conducted at the Yale have led to FDA approval of drugs for the treatment of lung cancer, such as the immunotherapeutic drug Tecentriq (atezolizumab), which has been proven to improve patients’ overall survival for patients whose disease is designated NSCLC. This drug is said to be discovered by scientists at Yale and has been instrumental in improving survival for lung cancer patients. Another FDA approved drug, immunotherapeutic research, specifically for patients with esophageal cancer. Specialties include medical oncology, radiation oncology, thoracic surgery, immunology, and thoracic pathology. Collaboration between the Center for Thoracic Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center is extensive and includes ways to help patients move from a comprehensive program to help with the physical, emotional, and psychological aspects of their disease.

The Center collaborates with the medical oncology, radiation oncology, thoracic surgery, and thoracic pathology departments at the Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center to offer patients the highest level of care. Our oncologists coordinate the care of patients with lung cancer and are able to offer integrative pain medicine for patients who suffer from pain as a result of their cancer treatments including radiation, chemotherapy, and surgery.
The Center for Thoracic Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center is a multidisciplinary program dedicated to providing cutting-edge care and research to patients with thoracic malignancies in an efficient and coordinated manner.

Through the Center, patients have access to a nationally recognized expert care team, who deliver personalized, state-of-the-art care in all aspects of thoracic oncology. Patients also benefit from a comprehensive program to help with the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of the patient and their families. In each interaction with a physician, patient, or caregiver, the Center demonstrates the highest level of care and a commitment to optimal patient outcomes.

The Center coordinates and integrates the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of patients diagnosed with a thoracic malignancy, including lung cancer, thymic cancers, mesothelioma, or chest wall tumors. They also coordinate the surgical care of patients diagnosed with mesothelioma. The Center for Thoracic Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center researchers, osimertinib was approved by the FDA due to its ability to target a protein that was discovered by scientists at Yale and has been instrumental in improving treatment outcomes for patients with EGFR-mutant lung cancer. Osimertinib is only available in a small minority of hospitals in the U.S.

**Radiation Oncology**

The Smilow Interventional Oncology Program offers cutting-edge specialized services, including percutaneous, interventional, and surgical procedures. The program offers state-of-the-art services, including percutaneous, interventional, and surgical procedures that are part of our comprehensive care. These services include the latest in diagnostic procedures, such as electromagnetic navigation, which allows for the most accurate and precise diagnosis of lung tumors. EMN provides the greatest diagnostic accuracy possible.

Smilow Cancer Hospital places great emphasis on taking care of all our patients’ needs with a team of dedicated and committed professionals with the highest level of training and expertise. In partnership with the Yale Thoracic Pathology Service, patient tissue obtained from the Center is truly multidisciplinary at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The program complements medical, surgical, and radiation oncology to provide optimal patient care.

**Interventional Oncology**

The TOC Program offers state-of-the-art specialized services, supporting all disciplines at Smilow Cancer Hospital. For the care of patients with thoracic malignancies, the TOC Program offers interventional oncology, which focuses on the use of minimally invasive image-guided procedures to deliver targeted cancer therapy.

Radiotherapy is a common treatment for cancer. It uses ionizing radiation to kill cancer cells and stop them from growing. Radiotherapy can be used to cure cancer, shrink tumors, or control symptoms such as pain.

**Pathology**

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The Center for Thoracic Cancers provides access to highly technically advanced radiation therapy treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) provides treatment to the target area using a highly focused beam of radiation. It results in less radiation delivered to surrounding tissue and fewer side effects.

Available to some patients who are not able to (or do not wish to) undergo surgery, radiotherapy can be superior to chemotherapy with respect to quality of life and overall survival. Preclinical research in our laboratories supports the use of radiotherapy in lung cancer, and the clinical data from the Mayo Clinic has shown that radiotherapy is effective in patients with multiple lesions.

For the care of patients with thoracic malignancies, we have established a program between pulmonary/critical care medicine and thoracic surgery at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Our physicians have the most experience in the state with EBUS and provide the greatest accuracy for the diagnosis and staging of lung tumors using a specialized ultrasound probe. Our physicians have developed a protocol for peripheral endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) that allows for better access to obtain tissue samples of lung masses. Smilow Cancer Hospital is the only hospital in the state of Connecticut offering this “GPS-like” bronchoscopic guidance through the lungs to nodules or masses in need of diagnosis.

Additional resources for our patients and/or families include nutritional counseling, physical therapists, and support groups through local organizations and the American Lung Association. For additional information, please visit the American Lung Association’s website at www.lung.org or call 1-877-LUNG-2050 (1-877-586-4205).
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For Cindy’s story: m.yale.edu/cindy-story

apointments

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