CLINICAL TRIALS
Clinical trials are available for patients with advanced or intermediate stage disease, using new ablative treatments, new targeted agents, and combinations of treatments to target specific intracellular mechanisms of the liver cancer. Yale Cancer Center emphasizes the importance of clinical trials and continually strives to provide our patients with the most current therapies. In close collaboration with basic scientists, clinical research is focused on developing innovative strategies to help eradicate, control, and palliate tumors in patients. We perform state-of-the-art genomic profiling and laboratory explorations to determine the biologic weaknesses of the tumors and to develop better therapies. Many of these drugs are exploring new types of therapy and new combinations of therapies and many of our studies are available at our network of Care Centers.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
For more information or to schedule an appointment with a member of the Liver Cancer Program, please contact 203-200-5487 (LIVR). 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, at our main campus, as this will enable a better assessment of your overall conditions. We also work in close coordination with our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers and we have hepatology clinics in Westport, Westerly, New Haven, North Haven, Bridgeport, and Derby, where follow-up can be arranged.

Gary
I am delighted with the results and most impressed with the expertise and caring manner of the entire team. Every day, every nurse at Smilow is ridiculously, no exaggeration. They do everything to make you comfortable and are always there to answer your questions.

Marissa
For Marissa’s story: m.yale.edu/marissa-story

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They never gave up on me, and I am so thankful that they kept believing. The guiding principle is to personalize and adapt care to the changing needs of the patient. Each patient’s diagnosis and reaches a consensus on the best personalized treatment plan. Our clinical trials. Interventional, and medical treatments are being added to our therapeutic armamentarium and diagnosed each year in the United States. While the incidence is rising, new surgical, to discovering new, more effective treatments.

The first team you will meet after being referred to the program will likely be our dedicated hepatologists. Liver cancer treatment options vary based on multiple factors, including the location of the tumor, and the overall health of the patient. Our transplant surgeons perform both cadaveric and living donor transplantation can provide definitive cure for both the cancer and the advanced liver disease that either because of the location of the tumors or because the liver has too much disease, liver resection and laparoscopic ablation. Our surgeons frequently work in tandem with our interventional radiologists and hepatologists to optimize liver function before surgery, making surgery safer and recovery easier.

Liver cancer is almost always associated with chronic liver diseases of variable severity and with the patient is a potential candidate for liver transplant, and prepare the tumor board discussion. After the patient is evaluated, and the tumor board reaches a consensus about the best treatment options for our patients, for liver transplant or resection, is not feasible or advisable. Ablation can be performed percutaneously or, if necessary, through minimally-invasive surgical approaches such as robotic liver resection and laparoscopic ablation. Our surgeons frequently work in tandem with our interventional radiologists and hepatologists to optimize liver function before surgery, making surgery safer and recovery easier.

Liver imaging is a major component of our diagnostic armamentarium and requires specialized technology and a team of radiologists with skills in reading liver imaging. Most of the time liver cancer is not easily visible by standard imaging techniques, such as CT scans or MRIs. Our radiologists are experts in liver imaging and can provide important information about the size, location, and extent of the tumor.

Liver pathologists are an integral part of our team and of the liver tumor board and often help with interpretation by our radiologists, that are also the main actors during our weekly tumor boards. For example, a large liver mass that appears in an otherwise normal liver can raise suspicion for a liver mass and need further evaluation.

Medical Oncology

Our medical oncology team provides experience and knowledge of innovative treatment options and investigative trials. Chemotherapy is commonly used in the treatment of primary liver cancer. However, there are several novel treatments for targeted liver cancer. Targeted therapies that target the changes in cancer cells that help the cancer grow, divide, and spread are used for metastatic liver cancer that has spread to other sites. These drugs can be combined with other treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy. Clinical trials investigating new medications and molecular targeted therapies are also available.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Liver cancer may be necessary for tumors that cannot be removed by surgery or liver cancer that has spread to other parts of the body. Smilow Cancer Hospital and need radiation oncology, but we also believe that they are part of our team and of the liver tumor board and can be an important tool for our patients.
It was a long journey, full of obstacles and setbacks. I always tell people, "my life was worth saving." They never gave up on me, and I am so thankful that they kept believing in me. One of the guiding principles is to personalize and adapt care to the changing needs of the patient. To achieve this outstanding level of care, the Liver Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital offers an entire spectrum of systemic cancer treatment for those in need, as well as access to innovative medications through clinical trials.

The incidence of liver and bile duct cancer is growing, and about 42,000 new cases are diagnosed each year in the United States. While the incidence is rising, new surgical, interventional, and medical treatments are becoming available to our patients. For some patients, these treatments can cure their disease; while for others, liver transplantation may be the solution. For patients diagnosed with early stage disease, whose tumor cannot be removed with surgery and who have few or no risk factors, and evaluate based on general condition, stage of the tumor and prognostic indexes if surgery is deemed a potential candidate for liver transplant, a dedicated team of transplant hepatologists will work with the patient and the family.

Treatment options for liver cancer often include surgery and other forms of liver-directed therapy. For patients with resectable tumors and normal liver function, a surgical option is preferred. Liver transplantation is the procedure by which an entire new liver is placed inside the blood vessels that feed a tumor.

SURGICAL, ONCOLOGY AND TRANSPLANT SURGERY

Surgery is often the best treatment option to remove the disease and cure patients who are able to tolerate the procedure. For selected cases, contrast-enhanced liver ultrasound is also available. For patients diagnosed with stage 4 disease, whose tumor cannot be removed with surgery and who have few or no risk factors, and evaluate based on general condition, stage of the tumor and prognostic indexes if surgery is deemed a potential candidate for liver transplant, a dedicated team of transplant hepatologists will work with the patient and the family.

In patients with iCCA, genotyping is essential to guide novel targeted therapies.

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Our medical oncology team provides experience and knowledge of innovative treatment options and investigational therapies. Chemotherapy is commonly used in the treatment of primary liver cancer. However, there are new investigational treatments for targeted cancer therapy for advanced liver cancer, including novel targeted therapies that target the changes in cancer cells that help them grow, divide, and spread. These therapies can increase the survival rate of patients with unresectable liver cancer, and improve their quality of life.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Radiator may be necessary for tumors that cannot be removed by surgery or liver cancer that has spread beyond the liver. Radiation therapy is carefully planned and delivered to block the progression of the tumor. At the Liver Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital need radiation oncology, we are confident that they are receiving the highest quality care from the most experienced team of radiation oncologists in Connecticut. Our most advanced and skilled therapists utilize the latest technology and advanced imaging tools to deliver the best possible care. The Department of Radiation Oncology provides state-of-the-art care, leading to the highest level of accuracy, resulting in the lowest possible radiation delivered to surrounding tissue and liver side effects. For our patients and their families, we provide nutrition counseling, physical therapy, and pastoral support.

SUPPORTIVE CARE

Smilow Cancer Hospital offers great expertise in tailoring care of our patients’ needs with the best medical care available and in the research of supportive care services. Our patients receive care from our team of radiologists with expertise in liver imaging in order to guide clinical care. Radiation oncologists work closely with our radiologists to determine the best treatment plan for each patient. Our team of radiologists with skills in reading liver imaging. Most of the time liver cancer can be detected by the lack of functional parenchyma.

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They never gave up on me, and I am so thankful that they kept believing in me. It is a very real comfort to know that I was treated at the best hospital, with the best doctors.

Marissa

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They never gave up on me, and I am so thankful that they kept believing in me. Each patient’s diagnosis and treatment are tailored to suit the individual, and we are committed to understanding the patient’s needs, wants, and preferences to make the treatment as personalized as possible. Our team of hepatologists, hepatobiliary surgeons, interventional radiologists, and medical oncologists has assembled a dedicated group of specialists, including hepatologists, hepatobiliary surgeons, interventional radiologists, and medical oncologists, to create a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to care tailored to each individual patient. The Liver Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital offers an entire spectrum of care for those in need, as we are excited to see increased innovation through clinical trials to achieve this outstanding level of care.

Liver cancer is almost always associated with chronic liver diseases of variable severity and with various stages of fibrosis/cirrhosis. The first team you will meet after being referred to the program will likely be our dedicated hepatologists. The Liver Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital provides additional treatment options for patients, as we are committed to discovering new, more effective treatments.

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The Liver Cancer Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital offers an entire spectrum of therapies for primary liver cancers, also known as hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (ICC). Our team is dedicated to diagnosing liver cancer early, offering advanced treatment options for patients, and acting as a resource for discovering new, more effective treatments.

The incidence of liver and bile duct cancer is growing, and about 42,000 new cases are diagnosed each year in the United States. The liver is located in the upper right quadrant of the abdomen, under the cost line, and is the largest organ in the body. The liver’s primary function is to filter blood that enters the body from the portal vein and to detoxify the blood. The liver also produces bile, which is necessary for the absorption of fats and essential nutrients, and it is involved in maintaining the immune system. The liver is also responsible for regulating blood sugar levels, producing enzymes, and helping to release stored vitamins and hormones.

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