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 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 with 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 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 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 offer our patients and their families a closer trip for treatments and check-ups, while still receiving the same high standard of care.

Eight years ago, I had two years to live. I am still here. My doctors from day one have been confident about my treatment options available. I knew I was finally in the right place with the right people to help. — Jack

Ten years ago, I was diagnosed with lung cancer. I was told I had two years to live. My doctors at Smilow were so confident about the various treatment options available, I knew I was finally in the right place to seek treatment. — Jack

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Clinical Trials

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For Cindy’s story: m.yale.edu/cindy-story

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Eight years ago today I had two years to live. I am still here. My doctors officially gave me a 95% chance of survival. The immunotherapy regimen available, I know, was provide in the right drugs could make.

– Jack

Cindy

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– Jack

Cindy
Cancer Screening Program has proven to be a critical tool in providing patients at risk with individualized, evidence-based screening, and helping to detect these cancers earlier. Through the Center, patients have access to nationally recognized expert clinicians, who deliver an organized, coordinated approach to cancer care, and the latest technologies and treatments. Patients also benefit from newly available cancer therapies resulting from scientific insights gained in Yale laboratories and from other comprehensive cancer centers and coordinated manner.

The Center’s multidisciplinary care coordinators, who make management of even the most detailed multidisciplinary care plans a reality, have been especially vital to the entire Center’s physicians because of the team approach to care. Patients also benefit from normal activity, are just some of the benefits this technology allows for. Yale was one of the earliest hospitals in the state with this technology. This technology improves diagnostic sensitivity for whole lung lavage:

**Confocal microscopy:**

- The following minimally invasive procedures are some highlights of the program:
- **Bronchoscopic Ultrasound:** The bronchoscopic ultrasound program provides pain-free and non-invasive imaging of structures located within the bronchial tree, such as the mediastinum, the thoracic cavity, the pleura, and target tumors located within the lung to guide biopsies. This program is unique at Smilow Cancer Hospital because all procedures are performed by physicians specializing in bronchoscopic ultrasound.

**PULMONARY MEDICINE AND PULMONARY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

Our pulmonary medicine experts provide excellent care for patients with lung cancer screening and diagnosis beyond conventional approaches. The Pulmonary Interval Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (PIAS) team is dedicated to the evaluation and treatment of patients with lung cancer and aims to help patients quit smoking by combining counseling and drug treatment. A non-invasive technique, stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) 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.

**INTerventionAL ONCOLOGY**

The Smilow International Prostate Cancer Program offers cutting-edge specialized services available at all Smilow locations. For the care of patients with prostate metastases, we have a dedicated team of interventional oncologists who are among the highest level of urologists in the region. Our Interventional Oncology team offers image-guided therapeutics, among other services. These technologies allow us to treat patients who are not candidates for surgery or radiation therapy and who may benefit from these minimally invasive and targeted treatments.

The Center provides access to highly technically advanced radiation therapy treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) can be used as primary or adjuvant treatments, and contribute to care that is truly multidisciplinary at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The program complements medical surgical, radiation, and interventional oncology to provide patients with optimal care.
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 trauma. They also coordinate the surgical care of patients with esophageal cancer. Specialties include medical oncology, radiation oncology, thoracic surgery, interventional radiology, pulmonary medicine, pathology, diagnostic imaging, and nursing. Collaboration with the Brigham Lung Center allows patients to be seen by some of the nation’s leading thoracic specialists. The Center coordinates and integrates the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of patients with thoracic malignancies in an efficient and coordinated manner.

Any patient cared for by one of our physicians benefits from the collective expertise of the entire Center’s physicians because of the team approach to care. Patients also benefit from newly available cancer therapies resulting from scientific insights gained in Yale laboratories and from other comprehensive cancer centers across the country. Patients also benefit from the involvement of the team’s care coordinators, who make management of even the most detailed multidisciplinary care plans less complicated, which ensures that all of our patients are offered the best medical care available and a network of supportive care services. Advanced practice therapists, nurses, social workers, and counselors provide high-quality supportive care to ensure that truly multidisciplinary at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The program complements medical, surgical, and radiation oncology to offer the best medical care possible.

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
Our medical oncology team is nationally recognized for their leadership and expertise in lung cancer treatment and research and is dedicated to offering personalized treatment options for patients suffering from lung and other thoracic malignancies. They tailor each patient’s treatment to the local needs and individual characteristics of the patients they serve, ensuring optimal outcomes. The Center provides access to highly technically advanced radiation oncology, bronchoscopic procedures, and therapeutic options resulting from clinical trials.

Recent studies conducted at the Center have led to FDA approval of drugs for the treatment of lung cancer, such as the immunotherapeutic drug Tecentriq (atezolizumab), which has been proven in clinical trials to improve survival for all patients with any type of lung cancer. Another FDA approved drug, druzetumumab, is currently being tested in patients with lung cancer.

Multiple patients in need of surgery are referred for a minimally invasive surgery known as a video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS). VATS is performed through several small incisions, versus a major chest incision, and requires less convalescence. Most lung cancer patients in need of surgery at Smilow Cancer Hospital are scheduled for VATS surgery. VATS is only available in a small minority of hospitals in the U.S.

The Center for Thoracic Cancers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale Cancer Center is one of only a few hospitals in the U.S. that offers robotic surgery for lung cancer. Smilow Cancer Hospital is one of only a few institutions in the country to provide robotically assisted thoracic surgery for lung cancer. Your thoracic surgeon will discuss the surgical options available to you, and the benefits of each option.

RADIATION ONCOLOGY
The Center for Thoracic Cancers provides access to highly technically advanced radiation therapy treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) provides high doses of radiation with a high level of accuracy to lung cancer tumors. This precise therapy treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) provides high doses of radiation with a high level of accuracy to lung cancer tumors. This precise therapy 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. Confocal microscopy is an innovative procedure using electromagnetic technology that enables visualization of microscopic cells in the lung. Your thoracic surgeon will discuss the surgical options available to you, and the benefits of each option.

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Follow-up minimally invasive procedures are sometimes of the highlights of program.

Surgical options vary depending on factors such as the patient’s overall health, the stage of the disease, and the location of the tumor. These options include resection to increase the size of the segment that will remain after surgery. Surgical procedures can apply a high voltage of electrical pulses to induce precision targeted cancer death, while preserving healthy tissue. They are among the latest technological advances in the treatment of lung cancer.

Radioembolization (Y90): a minimally invasive procedure that combines embolization and targeted radiation therapy for patients with liver, lung, kidney, or colorectal tumors with limited access to surgery, or in whom surgery is not an option. Radioembolization can provide substantial disease control and pain relief for those who have not responded to other treatments.

Innovative minimally invasive procedures can offer better access to obtain tissue samples of lung masses. Smilow Cancer Hospital provides image-guided therapies, among other services. These minimally invasive therapies can offer better access to obtain tissue samples of lung masses. Smilow Cancer Hospital provides image-guided therapies, among other services. These minimally invasive procedures can be used either as primary or adjuvant treatments, and contribute to care that is truly multidisciplinary at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

The program complements medical, surgical, and radiation oncology to offer the best medical care possible.
From a comprehensive program to help with the physical, emotional, and psychological individualized, evidence-based screening, and helping to detect these cancers earlier. Specialties include medical oncology, radiation oncology, thoracic surgery, pulmonary oncology, interventional oncology, pulmonary pathology, diagnostic imaging, and nursing. The Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine program is dedicated to the evaluation and treatment of patients with lung diseases. Our Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine fellowships are nationally and internationally recognized for their excellence.

The Yale Smilow Cancer Hospital program between pulmonary/critical care medicine and thoracic surgery at Smilow Cancer Hospital. This collaboration combines advanced, state-of-the-art technology with physicians extremely experienced using this technology to perform bronchoscopic procedures to obtain tissue samples of lung masses. Smilow Cancer Hospital is truly multidisciplinary at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The program complements medical, surgical, and radiation oncology to provide optimal patient care.

In partnership with the Yale Thoracic Pathology Service, patient tissue obtained from the bronchoscopy is utilized to determine the optimal treatment for the patient. Our thoracic surgeons perform the most robotic lung procedures in Connecticut. Smilow Cancer Hospital places great emphasis on taking care of all our patients’ needs with dedicated knowledge and skills related to the treatment of esophageal and lung cancers. In this highly specialized area, our pathology team utilizes state-of-the-art robotic technology, the da Vinci Robotic System®. It is also available and provides patients with a minimally invasive surgical procedure to allow for better access to obtain tissue samples of lung masses.

Additional resources for our patients and/or families include nutritional counseling, physical therapy, art therapy, and pastoral support. The Tobacco Treatment Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital is one of the few programs in the state of Connecticut offering smoking cessation programs. Additional resources for our patients and/or families include nutritional counseling, physical therapy, art therapy, and pastoral support.

INTERVENTIONAL ONCOLOGY

The Smilow Interventional Oncology Program offers cutting-edge specialized services available at all Smilow Cancer Hospital locations for the care of patients with thoracic malignancies, lymphomas, sarcoma of the chest and extremities, and mesothelioma, or chest wall tumors. They also coordinate the surgical care 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 a thoracic malignancy, including lung cancer, thymic cancers, mesothelioma, or chest wall tumors.

The program is dedicated to the evaluation and treatment of patients with lung diseases. Our Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine fellowships are nationally and internationally recognized for their excellence.

The following minimally invasive procedures are some highlights of the program:

- Bronchoscopy
- Electromagnetic navigation:
- Confocal microscopy:
- Peripheral endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS):
- Ultrasonic bronchoscopy:
- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA):
- Cryoablation:
- Radioembolization (Y90):
- microwave ablation:

Available to some patients who are not able to (or don't wish to) undergo surgery, radiation treatment also results in less radiation delivered to surrounding tissue and fewer side effects.

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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 that are based on the latest advances in lung cancer research and treatments. The Center is a multidisciplinary program dedicated to providing cutting-edge evaluation and treatment to patients with thoracic malignancies in an efficient and coordinated manner.

At our centers, patients benefit from the care of many experts who understand their needs from multiple perspectives. Our physicians have the most experience in the state with EBUS and provide the greatest expertise in interventional endoscopic techniques. The following minimally invasive procedures are some highlights of the program:

- **Electromagnetic navigation:** an innovative procedure using electromagnetic technology that allows physicians to navigate the lungs to nodules or masses in need of diagnosis.
- **Lung biopsy:** advancement in minimally invasive lung biopsy techniques, as the bronchoscopic expectorated biopsy is an inexpensive alternative to VATS.
- **Whole Lung Lavage:** a pulmonary procedure used to wash the lungs free of abnormal fluid.
- **Endotracheal intubation:** a procedure for securing the airway and providing ventilation.
- **Bronchoscopy:** examination of the bronchi and bronchial tree using a flexible or rigid bronchoscope.
- **Pulmonary function testing:** a series of tests that measure how well the lungs are able to exchange gases.
- **Pulmonary rehabilitation:** a program that helps patients learn to control their breathing and reduce fatigue.

The Pulmonary Intervention Program (PIP) is a joint venture between Yale New Haven Health and Yale Cancer Center. PIP offers state-of-the-art techniques and approaches to provide diagnostic and prognostic pathology reports on tissue samples. Our physicians have extensive experience in diagnosing and treating lung cancer, such as the immunotherapy drug Tecentriq (atezolizumab), which has been proven to improve the survival of patients with advanced disease.

Our patients benefit from newly available cancer therapies resulting from research that is critical to the care of our patients. Clinical trials are made available to patients at our centers, allowing them to participate in research that is at the forefront of medicine.

Through the Center, patients have access to nationally recognized expert clinicians, who deliver an organized, coordinated approach to cancer care, and the latest treatments and technologies. Patients also benefit from newly available cancer therapies resulting from research that is critical to the care of our patients. Clinical trials are made available to patients at our centers, allowing them to participate in research that is at the forefront of medicine.

\*Please contact our interventional pulmonology team for more information on clinical trials and treatment options.

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

The Center for Thoracic Cancers provides access to highly technically advanced radiation therapy treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, called stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) involves the delivery of very high doses of radiation over a short period of time to a lung tumor. This treatment also 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, radiation therapy plays an important role in the treatment of both primary and metastatic lung cancer. Radiation treatment is available at our centers at Smilow Cancer Hospital and conveniently at our Smilow Cancer Hospital Care Centers throughout Connecticut.

The Center for Thoracic Cancers provides access to highly technically advanced radiation technology. Applications for radiation therapy include prevention, treatment, and palliation of cancer. The Center for Thoracic Cancers provides access to highly technically advanced radiation therapy treatment planning. A non-invasive technique, called stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) involves the delivery of very high doses of radiation over a short period of time to a lung tumor. This treatment also results in less radiation delivered to surrounding tissue and fewer side effects.

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