UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Anal Cancer

The UCSF Patient and Family Cancer Support Center is the hub of support, information and resources for people with cancer at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Learn more about UCSF's supportive care programs at https://cancer.ucsf.edu/support/crc/patientsupport-center

The Cancer Support Center at Mission Bay is located at 1825 4th St., 1st Floor, Room M-1210. The Cancer Support Center at Mt. Zion is located at 1600 Divisadero St., 1st Floor, Room B-101. The complete list of Patient Education Resource Pages is available to view at http://cancer.ucsf.edu/support/crc/patient-education-resources

Overview

Although rare, anal cancer is becoming more prevalent in the United States and many other developing countries. The condition develops in the tissues of the anus, which is a short tube that connects the lower part of the large intestine, known as the rectum, to the outside of the body. The anus allows the controlled disposal of body waste during bowel movements.

Like cervical cancer, the principal cause of anal cancer is human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus that causes changes in the skin. Anal HPV infection is most commonly acquired through anal intercourse, but it can also be acquired from other genital areas that are infected, particularly from the vulva in women, or from the penis in men. Fingers and toys can probably lead to anal HPV infection as well. Research suggests that sexually active individuals, both men and women, may be at risk for HPV. The good news is that only a fraction of people with anal HPV infection will develop a lasting case of anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN) — a precursor to anal cancer — and even fewer will develop anal cancer.

Other risk factors for anal cancer include:

- Men and women with a history of anal intercourse
- Men and women with a history of perianal warts, which are found outside the anus
- Women with a history of vulvar warts, which are found outside the female genitals
- Men and women who are chronically immunocompromised, such as those taking immunosuppressive medications, and those who are HIV positive, or those have received organ transplants. Additional risk factors include being over 50 years of age, having many sexual partners and smoking, which increases a person's chance of developing HPV.

https://www.ucsfhealth.org/conditions/anal-cancer

UCSF Resources

UCSF Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology/Surgery Clinic

The clinic offers the most advanced and effective treatments available for cancerous as well as benign gastrointestinal conditions. These include conditions involving the anus, bile duct, colon, esophagus, gallbladder, liver, pancreas, peritoneal cavity, rectum, small intestine, spleen and stomach. Learn more information about signs, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and resources at the link provided below. Website: https://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/gastrointestinal-medical-oncology-clinic | Phone Number: (415) 353-9888

Publications

ACS: "If You Have Anal Cancer"
Website: https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/anal-cancer/if-you-have-anal-cancer.html

National Comprehensive Cancer Network: "NCCN Guidelines for Patients: Stomach Cancer"
Website: https://www.nccn.org/patientresources/patient-resources/guidelines-for-patients/guidelines-for-patients-details?patientGuidelineId=39

World Cancer Research Fund & American Institute for Cancer Research "Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Stomach Cancer"
Website: https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/stomach-cancer-report.pdf

Organizations

American Cancer Society (ACS) -Anal Cancer

At the American Cancer Society, we're on a mission to free the world from cancer. Until we do, we'll be funding and conducting research, sharing expert information, supporting patients, and spreading the word about prevention. All so you can live longer — and better.
Website: https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/anal-cancer.html

Anal Cancer Foundation

The Anal Cancer Foundation is dedicated to empowering anal cancer patients and accelerating prevention and treatment methods that eliminate this disease.
Website: https://www.analcancerfoundation.org

CancerCare: Anal Cancer
A cancer diagnosis turns a person's world upside down — emotionally, physically and financially. CancerCare can help Website: https://www.cancercare.org/diagnosis/anal_cancer

Medline Plus: Trusted Health Information for You – Anal Cancer
MedlinePlus is a service of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library, which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
Website: https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007652.htm

National Cancer Institute – Anal Cancer
The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the federal government's principal agency for cancer research and training. NCI is deeply committed to the core values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, which enable all staff to reach their potential and fully contribute to the Institute's cancer mission. Website: https://www.cancer.gov/types/anal

National LGBTQIA+ Cancer Network
The National LGBTQIA+ Cancer Network works to improve the lives of LGBTQIA+ cancer survivors and those at risk by: EDUCATING the LGBTQIA+ community about our increased cancer risks and the importance of screening and early detection; TRAINING health care providers to offer more culturally-competent, safe, and welcoming care; and ADVOCATING for LGBTQIA+ survivors in mainstream cancer organizations, the media, and research.
Website: https://cancer-network.org | Phone Number: 212-675-2633