UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Thymus 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

Thymoma is a rare cancer that affects the thymus gland, an organ located between the lungs. As part of the immune and lymphatic systems, the thymus supports the immune system's development during childhood and helps the body fight illness throughout life.

A thymoma originates in the epithelial cells lining the thymus. (Epithelial cells are tightly packed cells that cover surfaces of organs and other body parts.) This tumor typically grows slowly and is unlikely to spread. In some cases, however, cancer cells spread to the lining of the heart and lungs or to other tissues throughout the body. Another cancer of the thymus, thymic carcinoma, tends to grow faster than thymoma and is more likely to spread, or metastasize.

While the exact cause of thymoma is unknown, it is common in patients with myasthenia gravis, an autoimmune disorder that causes muscle weakness. Thymoma affects men and women equally and is typically diagnosed in patients over 70.

Website: https://www.ucsfhealth.org/conditions/thymoma#:~:text=Support%20services-,Overview,body%20fight%20illness%20throughout%20life.

UCSF Resources

UCSF Thoracic Surgery and Oncology Clinic

The UCSF Thoracic Surgery and Oncology Clinic offers state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment for lung cancer and other conditions related to the lungs, chest and esophagus. Our team of surgeons, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists works together closely to ensure that each patient receives comprehensive care. Our surgeons are highly skilled in minimally invasive techniques, including robot-assisted surgery, performed at UCSF since 2016. After surgery, patients receive care in our Thoracic Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Program. Bringing together a team of experts from different disciplines, this program follows a protocol before, during

and after chest surgery that has been shown to decrease complications and improve results.
Website: https://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/thoracic-surgery-and-oncology | Phone Number: 415-885-3882

Publications

National Library of Medicine: "Trends in the incidence of thymoma, thymic carcinoma, and thymic neuroendocrine tumor in the United States"
Website: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6938371/

National Library of Medicine: "Thymic Carcinomas-A Concise Multidisciplinary Update on Recent Developments From the Thymic Carcinoma Working Group of the International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group" Website: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35227908/

National Cancer Institute: "Thymoma Study"
Website: https://www.cancer.gov/ccg/research/genome-sequencing/tcga/studied-cancers/thymoma-study

Organizations

American Cancer Society (ACS) -Thymus 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/thymus-cancer.html

Cancer.Net – Thymoma & Thymic Carcinoma
Debbie's Dream Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness about stomach cancer, advancing funding for research, and providing education and support internationally to patients, families, and caregivers. DDF seeks as its ultimate goal to make the cure for stomach cancer a reality. They offer resources and patient stories. DDF also offers a helpline where a staff of skilled oncology social workers with specific expertise on issues affecting stomach cancer patients and their families. In addition, they have a mentor program where you can request to be connected with a mentor who has experience with your specific condition.
Website: https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/thymoma-and-thymic-carcinoma

Medline Plus: Thymus 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://thymic.org/

Foundation for Thymic Cancer Research
The Foundation for Thymic Cancer Research (FTCR) was founded in 2003 by Barbara Neibauer after she was diagnosed with a rare ectopic thymic carcinoma in her neck. Her surgeon warned her that very little was known about her cancer and what little information could be found was often confusing. Her goals were to support patients and to foster research. She believed that no real progress could be made until physicians and researchers had an interest in this rare tumor. Barbara passed away from her cancer in September 2005 but the Foundation continues to work toward her vision. Website: https://medlineplus.gov/thymuscancer.html

National Cancer Institute – Thymoma & Thymic Carcinoma
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 that allow all staff to reach their potential and fully contribute to the Institute's cancer mission. Website: https://www.cancer.gov/types/thymoma

National LGBT Cancer Network
The National LGBT Cancer Network works to improve the lives of LGBT cancer survivors and those at risk by: EDUCATING the LGBT 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 LGBT survivors in mainstream cancer organizations, the media and research.
Website: https://cancer-network.org/about/ | Phone Number: 212-675-2633

Thymic Carcinoma Center
Welcome to our community for those with Thymic Carcinoma and their loved ones! Whether you're a long-time fighter or just received the news, you're in the right place. Finding reliable information about thymic carcinoma is challenging. Finding others diagnosed with the disease can be even more difficult. This website helps you access up-to-date information about treatment options and resources on your journey. It's also a safe and supportive space to connect with others who can relate and share experiences. Website: https://thymiccarcinoma.org/