



# Holyoke Medical Center

**CANCER PROGRAM**  
Annual Report  
2019



# CANCER PROGRAM

## Annual Report 2019

Prepared by Lynn M. Downey, MPH, RHIT, CTR  
Cancer Registrar/Clinical Trials Coordinator

### CONTENTS

- 2** A Year in Review
- 5** Cancer Registrar's Report
- 6** Cancer Committee Members
- 7** Cancer Treatment at HMC
- 11** Cancer Frequency at Holyoke Medical Center
- 12** Breast Cancer Study
- 15** Prostate Cancer Study
- 16** References

# A Year in

*The Cancer Committee is responsible for developing and implementing programs that evaluate cancer care at Holyoke Medical Center with respect to quality improvement and patient care. The committee organizes cancer screening sessions for various cancer sites, such as breast, colon and prostate. The committee institutes programs to meet the standards of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.*

*This year, Holyoke Medical Center's breast cancer program was re-accredited for three years by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. Maintenance of accreditation requires a rigorous examination at the time of survey and in the months leading up to survey of all policies, procedures, programs and data of the HMC cancer program and its staff. The hospital is also accredited by the American College of Surgeons for its general cancer program.*

**Zubeena Mateen, M.D.,**  
Director, Hematology/Oncology  
Co-Chairman, Cancer Committee

# REVIEW

In 2019, the cancer committee continued to work very diligently with the help of administration to set up a webex for cancer conferences so that radiation oncology can have a presence. Cancer conferences now include radiation oncologists from Cooley Dickinson Healthcare/ Massachusetts General Hospital.

In 2019, goals for the cancer committee to achieve were:

1. Monitor pain assessment and reassessment in the oncology electronic medical record after any pain medication is given.
2. Decrease the established timeline between abnormal mammogram to biopsy from eight to two business days.

Dr. Francis Martinez has been appointed liaison to the American College of Surgeons for a three year term. To meet the standards set forth by the Commission on Cancer, the hospital must review data submitted to the National Cancer Database and use benchmark reports. During 2019, the liaison reported on this data quarterly.

In 2019, quality improvement studies were done on:

1. Readmission rates to the hospital or emergency room within 30 days after chemotherapy.
2. Breast cancer re-excision rates in comparison to evidence based literature.

3. Genetic mutations in the HMC population compared to region and nation. Is doing testing on the unaffected population cost effective vs. quality improvement for patients.

Drs. Martinez and Mateen did a study on malignant melanoma treatment and staging for cases diagnosed between 2010 and 2017. NCCN guidelines were being followed with surgery as the primary treatment for 78% of cases which corresponds with 60% of cases between Stage 0 and IIC. Immunotherapy in combination with surgery was being used in higher stage cases when they were eligible.

Outreach programs geared to men's health issues were held in June. A breast cancer education and screening event was offered in October for breast cancer awareness month. Colon cancer education and screening was done by the GI department this year. Urology provided a prostate cancer educational and prevention lecture.

Lung cancer screening by low dose CT scan continued in 2019. A new pulmonary department opened within the hospital which includes three pulmonologists and a thoracic surgeon with a new pulmonary function testing lab. This has allowed for better collaboration and continuity of care.

A Survivor's Day luncheon was held in June and was very well attended.

The committee continues to coordinate educational opportunities for the medical staff. In May, Dr. Njogu Njuguna from Baystate Medical Center spoke to the medical staff on Y90 intra-arterial radioembolization for primary and metastatic liver cancer.

The breast center participates in breast cancer clinical trials in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Breast Cancer Collaborative Registry (BCCR) which uses DNA in the hopes of the discovery of a breast cancer vaccine. This has been an ongoing effort for eight years. This year, patients were also entered into clinical trials at Dana Farber.

A Holyoke Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was completed in 2019. This assessment is required every three years and helps to determine the needs of our community. An implementation strategy will be developed in collaboration with local organizations to address the identified needs.

The committee identified the barriers to address through patient navigation in 2019 as pain, end of life needs, access to medical care and home care. Patient navigation and

# A Year in REVIEW

psychosocial distress monitoring is done in the oncology department to address these issues. Referrals are made to the pain management program, social work, hospice, visiting nurses association and to primary care physicians. Much time is spent by staff in addressing insurance issues such as pre-authorization or denials of payments. There are also efforts made to obtain help from pharmaceutical companies if medications are not covered. The lay navigator at the Women's Center, Nancy Almeyda, C.N.-B.A., received her certification as a CN-BA (Certified Navigator-Breast Advocate).

The committee reviewed the policies for psychosocial distress, hospice, rehabilitation, nutrition and chemotherapy safety in 2019. The committee continues to report to the Patient Care Assessment Committee of the hospital on five indicators: time between abnormal mammogram and biopsy; time between biopsy to surgery in breast cancer; outmigration of breast cancer patients; DVT/PE in patients with ports in oncology; and no show rates in oncology.

Cancer Conferences were held monthly during 2019. A multidisciplinary group, including medical oncologists, radiologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, pathologists, primary care physicians, oncology nurses, the cancer registrar and other specialists assemble to discuss the diagnosis and treatment of patients with malignancies. Over the course of the year, an attempt is made to include a wide variety of anatomic sites and to discuss both the frequent cancer types as well as unusual malignancies.

Cancer Conferences provide an important interdisciplinary forum for arriving at decisions regarding patient diagnosis and treatment and also serve as a source of education for the medical staff and other members of the hospital team.

In 2019, a member from the hospice program was added to the cancer committee.

The committee reviewed the new upcoming accreditation standards during the year and continues to keep updated on any changes.

# Cancer Registrar's Report

The Holyoke Medical Center Cancer Registry continues to report close to 300 new diagnoses of malignancy each year. Rapid quality reporting continued in 2019 for breast and colorectal cancer cases. These cases need to be reported to the National Cancer Database within three months of diagnosis and treatment monitoring is done until completion through a dashboard software system. Future plans are to include more malignancies in this program.

A current follow-up rate of 92% is maintained on all cases, with a 95% follow-up rate for cases diagnosed within the past five years. Cooperation of physicians and their office staff is of vital importance to the success of cancer follow-up and continuity of care. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Cancer Registry utilizes the Metriq software system to provide a broad range of cancer data, representing patients, diagnoses, treatment methods and outcome. With the advent of the electronic medical record and Webex sessions, learning software updates has been made easier, along with the retrieval of cancer data. The registrar also coordinates the breast cancer center program and breast cancer clinical trials in conjunction with the University of Nebraska's Breast Cancer Cooperative Registry (BCCR) which seeks to develop a breast cancer registry to include biological material which may be used in the future for the development of a breast cancer vaccine.

The Registry saw many requests for information in 2019. These requests

were from staff physicians, as well as external groups requesting participation in different studies. Registry information was utilized by administration in their efforts to assess patient care for improvements. Physicians and staff are urged to utilize the Registry's information for studies of their own interest at any time.

The cancer registrar participated in the North American Association of Cancer Registrars lecture on Ovarian Cancer, Lymphoma and Neuroendocrine Tumors during the year. She also attended the Massachusetts Cancer Registrar Education Session in conjunction with the National Cancer Institute in September.



**Lynn M. Downey, MPH, RHIT, CTR**  
*Cancer Registrar/Clinical Trials Coordinator*

# 2019 Cancer Committee

The Cancer Committee provides leadership for the Holyoke Medical Center Cancer Program. Individuals committed to the care, education and support of the cancer patient strive to provide optimal cancer care.

\*Nancy Almeyda, C.N.-B.A.

\*Thomas Buck, M.D., Pathology

Karen Crevier-Estes, R.N., Quality Improvement

\*Phil Candito, V.P. Administration

\*Lynn Downey, M.P.H., R.H.I.T., C.T.R., Cancer Registrar/Clinical Trials Coordinator

\*Renuka Dulala, M.D., Medical Oncology, Co-Chairman, Cancer Committee

Frances Fallon, R.N., Quality Improvement

Maureen Groden, RN, MS, CHPN, Holyoke VNA & Hospice Life Care

\*Jack Horky, M.D., Radiology

\*Mrinal Mali, M.D., Radiology

\*Francis Martinez, M.D., General Surgery, ACOS Cancer Liaison

\*Zubeena Mateen, M.D., Medical Oncology, Co-Chairman, Cancer Committee

\*Theresa McAndrew, R.D., Nutritional Services

Rebecca MacGregor, Marketing

\*Laura O'Connor, L.S.W., Social Work/Case Management

\*Deborah Panitch, M.D., General Surgery,

\*Nancy Price, R.N., Oncology

\*Ronald Rice, M.D., Pathology

Marjorie Spitz, M.B.A., Oncology

\*Dianne Walsh, R.T.R.M., Women's Center

\*indicates Breast Cancer Committee members



# Cancer Treatment At HMC

The Cancer Program Annual Report is a summary of the cancer experience at Holyoke Medical Center for 2019. The information used in this report is gathered from the Cancer Registry and activities of the Cancer Committee, which serve to improve the quality of cancer care. This report is provided as a source of reference to the hospital and its medical staff.

## **CANCER PROGRAM:**

Holyoke Medical Center has maintained a cancer program since 1977 and currently utilizes a reference date of January 1, 2005 for its database. This has been managed according to the requirements set forth by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer for a community hospital. Approval status affirms that the hospital provides a full range of services for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

## **CLINICAL PROGRAM:**

All cancer patients admitted to Holyoke Medical Center have access to consultative services by a member of the medical staff. This represents a variety of medical and surgical specialties, radiology, laboratory and other ancillary services, which provide optimal diagnostic and staging techniques. Inpatient and outpatient oncology services at Holyoke Medical Center are directed by oncologist, Zubeena Mateen, M.D.. Oncology referrals are made to other areas for experimental or newer types of cancer treatment. The hospital's breast cancer center was the first center in western Massachusetts accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC).

## **CLINICAL TRIALS:**

The Adjuvant Online software program provides current information on cancer management, including treatment advances, clinical trials on each cancer, as well as physicians and organizations that provide care to cancer patients. The latest patient management guidelines are available for physicians on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. The American Cancer Society provides a clinical trials matching program brochure in the information resource library located in the oncology department. The hospital participates in breast cancer clinical trials in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



### **CANCER CONFERENCES:**

Cancer Conferences are generally held on the last Thursday of the month. Cancer Conferences provide continuing medical education and are available as a consultative service. Open discussions are encouraged among primary care physicians, pathologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, radiologists and medical oncologists.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Programs are offered each year for continuing medical education and other related benefits to all members of the Medical Staff and other health care professionals. This ensures the constant access to new developments and updates in cancer care. This year's professional development included lectures on the following subjects:

- Y90 Intra-Arterial Radioembolization for Primary/Metastatic Liver Cancer
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Breast Cancer Genetics

### **Renuka Dulala, M.D.**

*Oncologist, Co-Chairman, Cancer Committee*

**PUBLIC EDUCATION:**

**Screenings & Prevention**

Cancer screenings allow for early detection of some types of cancer. Holyoke Medical Center is dedicated to this early detection. We provide annual public screening clinics and prevention discussions to the general public and hospital employees for the following types of cancer during the months listed:

March	Colon Cancer Screening
September	Prostate Cancer Prevention
October	Breast Cancer Screening
Ongoing	Lung Cancer Screening
Ongoing	Smoking cessation workshop

**Health Fairs**

In 2019, many community events were held promoting healthy lifestyle habits such as a heart walk, demonstrations of healthy recipes, and events focused on men’s health awareness. The Community Benefits department conducted the HMC Community Health Needs Assessment this year and will make the information available on an interactive online platform available on the hospital website. An annual implementation strategy will be created to address the indicated needs in collaboration with other local partners.

**Breast Cancer Awareness**

Each October, Holyoke Medical Center promotes Breast Cancer Awareness month. A breast cancer education and screening event was held. Participants in the breast cancer screening are provided with written information, breast self-exam instructions, and breast exams by a physician. Participants also have the opportunity to make an appointment for a mammogram.

**Awareness Through Media**

Holyoke Medical Center is dedicated to providing information to the community and making the community aware of healthcare news that may help or affect its members. For this reason, multiple physicians provide interviews with the media on cancer whenever requested which appeared on television or in a written format. These interviews are then shared through social media outlets, such as Facebook.



## **Cancer Support Groups**

**Spanish Support Group**-This support group is geared toward Latina women recently diagnosed with breast cancer and for survivors of breast cancer. The group is bilingual.

**Cancer Support Group**-This support program is open to all cancer patients and their families and caregivers. Sponsored through Holyoke Medical Center's Oncology Department, this group meets monthly. The support groups offer many different topics during the year

**Hospice support Group**-This group started in 2015 and includes a bereavement counselor who discusses the many different responses to grief and handling unfamiliar or new responsibilities. Members are able to share stories with each other about coping skills.

## **Cancer Survivorship**

A cancer survivor recognition luncheon was held in June. This is an annual event to celebrate cancer survivors. The luncheon included speakers from the hospital and community, some of whom are cancer survivors.

## **American Cancer Society**

Each year Holyoke Medical Center participates in events in association with the American Cancer Society such as the Look Good....Feel Better program.

## **Hospice**

Holyoke Medical Center has an affiliation with Holyoke VNA Hospice Life Care. Physicians are encouraged to recommend hospice services which can be initiated in as much as a six month time frame. There are also patients who go on and off hospice periodically.

## **Breast Cancer Center**

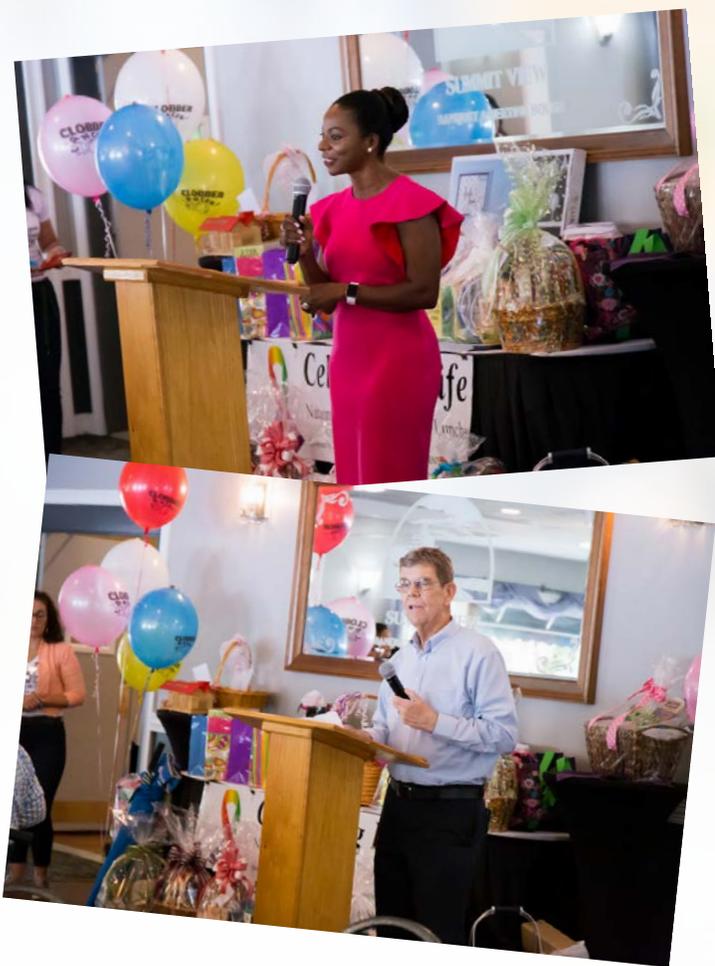
The hospital is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. Accreditation ensures that a multidisciplinary, integrated and comprehensive breast care service is maintained at the hospital. This will provide internal and external assessment of the breast center performance based on recognized standards to demonstrate a commitment to quality care. The hospital was re-accredited for three years in 2019 for its breast cancer program.

# Cancer Frequency at Holyoke Medical Center

Total cancer frequency at Holyoke Medical Center usually averages close to 300 new cases annually. The most common malignancy seen in 2018 was breast cancer at 21 %, followed by prostate cancer at 15% and lung cancer at 9%.

## 2018 FREQUENCY OF CANCER BY PRIMARY SITE (245 Analytic cases) ( 10 Non-analytic cases)

PRIMARY SITE	# OF CASES	PERCENTAGE
Breast	52	21%
Prostate	36	15%
Colorectal	27	11%
Bladder/Ureter	22	10%
Lung	23	9%
Lymphoma	14	6%
Esophagus/Stomach/ Small Intestine	12	5%
Hematological	12	5%
Miscellaneous	10	4%
Kidney	6	2%
Liver/Gallbladder/Bile Duct	6	2%
Head/Neck	5	2%
Melanoma	5	2%
Pancreas	5	2%
Anus	4	1%
Endometrium	4	1%
Testis	1	1%
Thyroid	1	1%
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>100%</b>



## BREAST CANCER STUDY

According to the American Cancer Society 268,670 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in the United States in 2018. Of those cases, 6,490 were diagnosed in Massachusetts. Deaths from breast cancer in 2018 are 41,400. Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women in the U.S.

The relative 5-year survival rate at Holyoke Medical Center for 289 cases of breast cancer diagnosed between 2008-2013 is 88%. The national relative 5-year survival rate for breast cancer according to the American Cancer Society is 91%.

Localized stage of disease (Stage 0, I, II) was noted to be 91% of cases. Nationally, 61% of cases present at diagnosis with a localized stage.

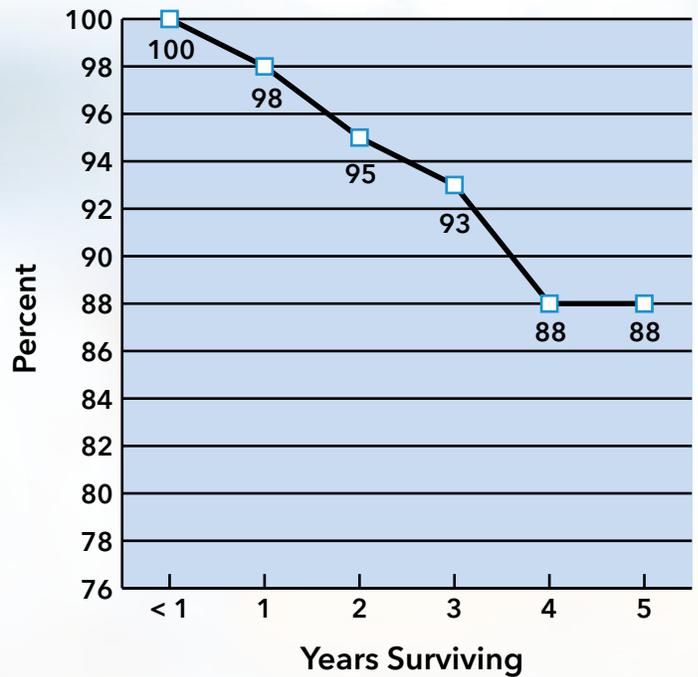
## HMC BREAST CANCER -STAGE OF DISEASE

(289 cases diagnosed 2008-2013)

Stage 0 .....	28%
Stage I.....	44%
Stage II.....	19%
Stage III.....	6%
Stage IV .....	2%
Unknown.....	1%



## Breast Cancer Relative 5-Year Survival (289 Cases Dx. 2008-2013)



## HMC BREAST CANCER-INITIAL TREATMENT

(289 cases diagnosed 2008-2013)

Chemotherapy alone .....	1
No treatment .....	6
Surgery alone .....	45
Surgery/Chemotherapy .....	16
Surgery/Radiation .....	20
Surgery/Radiation/Chemotherapy .....	16
Hormonal alone .....	7
Radiation/Hormonal .....	2
Surgery/Chemotherapy/Hormonal .....	10
Surgery/Hormonal .....	40
Chemotherapy/Hormonal .....	2
Surgery/Radiation/Hormonal .....	96
Surgery/Radiation/Chemotherapy/Hormonal .....	28

The largest treatment group for breast cancer at Holyoke Medical Center is combination of surgery/radiation/hormonal therapy.

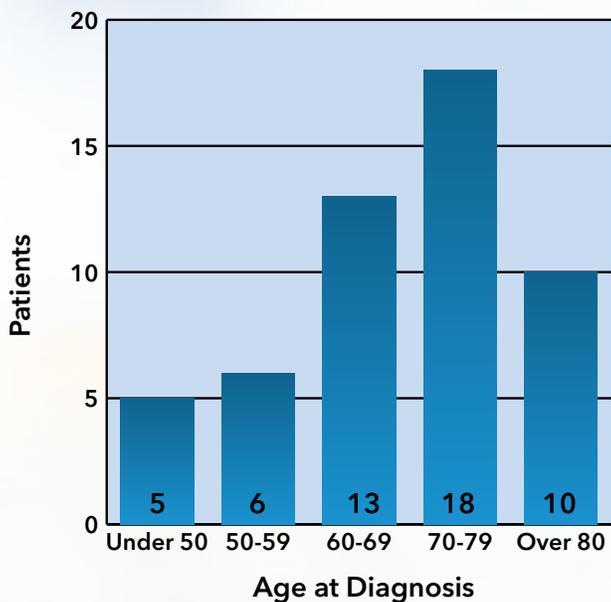
## 2018 BREAST CANCER

(52 analytic cases)

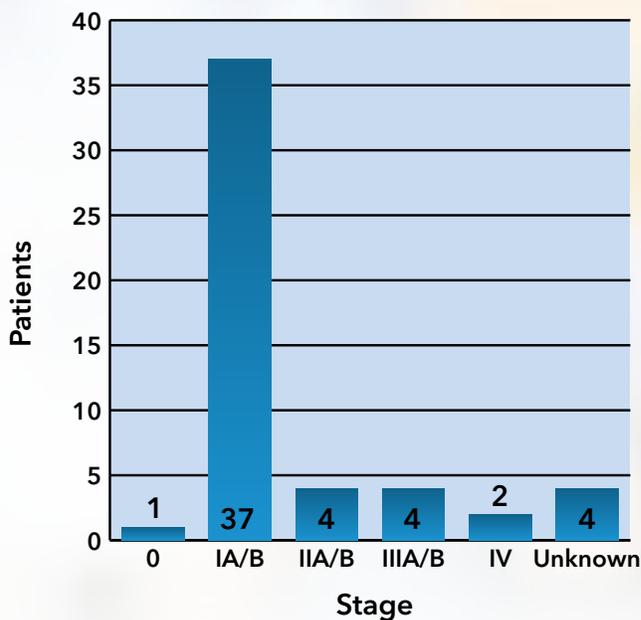
In 2018, there were 52 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed. The largest age group was the 70-79 years of age.

The largest stage group was Stage IA/B.

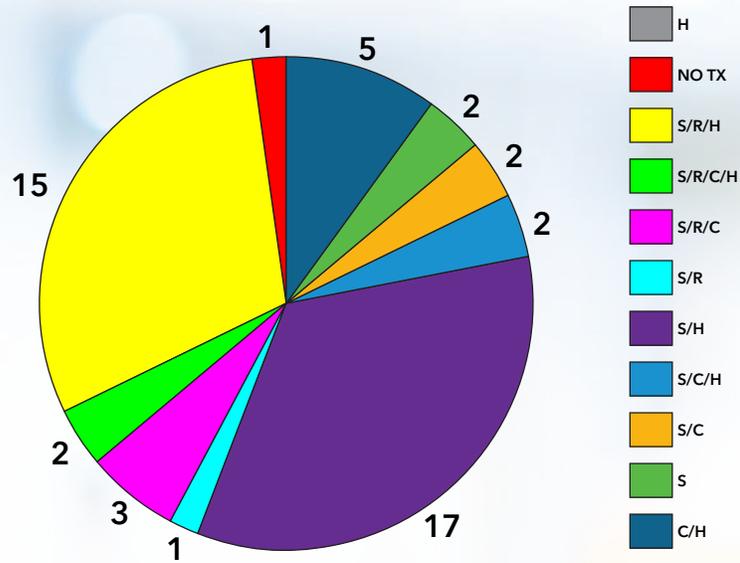
### HMC Breast Cancer Age at Diagnosis 2018 (52 Cases)



### HMC Breast Cancer Stage at Diagnosis 2018 (52 Cases)



## HMC Breast Cancer 2018 Treatment (52 Cases)



C/H	Chemotherapy/Hormonal	S/R/C	Surgery/Radiation/ Chemotherapy
S	Surgery	S/R/C/H	Surgery/Radiation/ Chemotherapy Hormonal
S/C	Surgery/Chemotherapy	S/R/H	Surgery/Radiation/Hormonal
S/C/H	Surgery/Chemotherapy/ Hormonal	No Tx	No Treatment
S/H	Surgery/Hormonal	H	Hormonal
S/R	Surgery/Radiation		

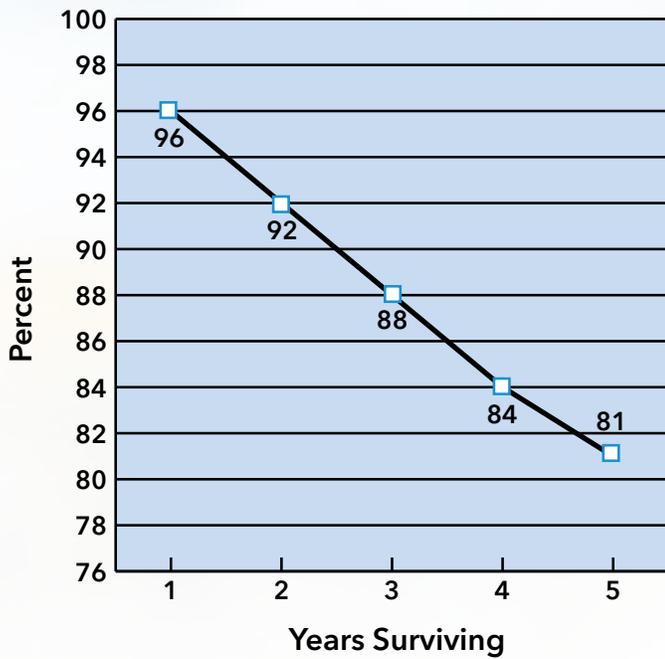
The largest treatment group is Surgery/Hormonal Therapy.



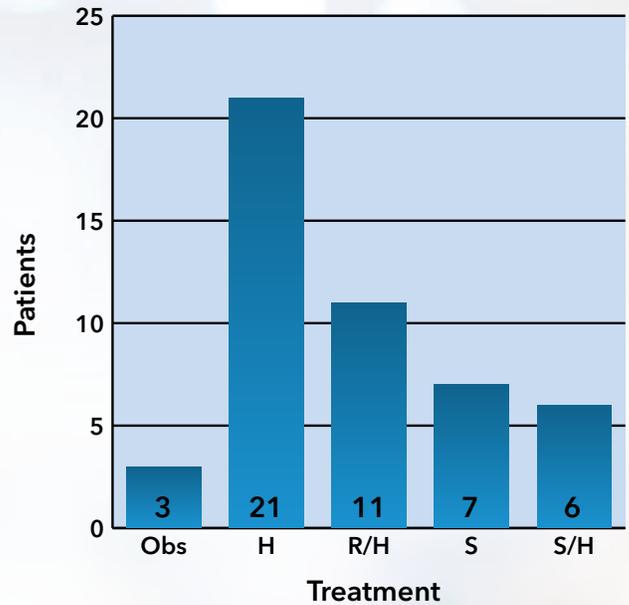
## PROSTATE CANCER

The relative 5-year survival rate for 48 prostate cancer cases diagnosed between 2008 to 2013 at Holyoke Medical Center is 81%. The national relative 5-year survival rate for prostate cancer as per the American Cancer Society is 99%. Stage IIA/B is the largest stage group noted at Holyoke Medical Center.

**Prostate Cancer Relative 5-Year Survival  
(48 Cases Dx. 2008-2013)**

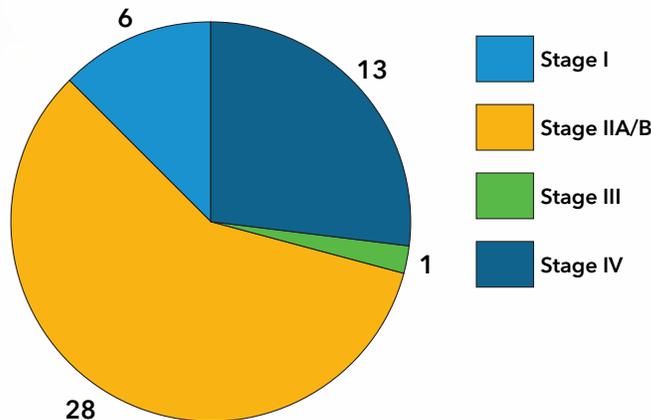


**HMC Prostate Cancer Treatment  
(48 Cases Dx. 2008-2013)**



- S/C= Surgery/Chemotherapy
- S= Surgery
- S/R/C= Surgery/Radiation/Chemotherapy
- S/R= Surgery/Radiation
- No Tx= No treatment
- C= Chemotherapy

**Prostate Cancer Stage of Disease  
(48 Cases Dx. 2008-2013)**



# Cancer Program Accreditations at Holyoke Medical Center



## National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers

Holyoke Medical Center was the first hospital in Western Massachusetts to successfully complete the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers.



## Breast Imaging Center of Excellence

Holyoke Medical Center has accreditation as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology.



## Breast MRI

Holyoke Medical Center has accreditation in breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) by the American College of Radiology.



## Breast Ultrasound & Ultrasound-Guided Biopsy

Holyoke Medical Center has accreditation in breast ultrasound by the American College of Radiology.



## Mammography

Holyoke Medical Center has accreditation in mammography by the American College of Radiology.



## Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

Holyoke Medical Center has accreditation in stereotactic breast biopsy by the American College of Radiology.



## Lung Cancer Screening Program

Holyoke Medical Center is a designated Lung Cancer Screening Center by the American College of Radiology and a GO<sub>2</sub> Foundation for Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence.



## Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons

Accreditation with commendation obtained by Holyoke Medical Center ensures our patients will have access to the full scope of services required to diagnose, treat, rehabilitate, and support patients with cancer and their families. This accreditation reaffirms the commitment to provide quality cancer care to our patients.

## REFERENCES:

- American Cancer Society (2018) Cancer Facts & Figures, pgs. 4-6, 18
- Holyoke Medical Center Cancer Registry, Reference Date 2005
- Manual For Staging of Cancer, American Joint Commission on Cancer, Eighth edition, 2017



JUNE 2019  
**Annual  
Cancer  
Survivor's  
Luncheon**





# Holyoke Medical Center

*A member of Valley Health Systems*

575 Beech Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040-2296

