



Before. During. After.

Patients Are Always at the Center of Cancer Care

CANCER PROGRAM
Annual Report 2023



Holyoke Medical Center
A member of Valley Health Systems

CANCER PROGRAM

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Cancer Registrar/Clinical Trials Coordinator

BEFORE. DURING. AFTER.

Holyoke Medical Center is committed to providing comprehensive, patient-focused care before, during and after a cancer diagnosis. This annual report highlights the work, progress and achievements of our Cancer Program in 2023, and our impact on care and the community.

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A Year in Review



Zubeena Mateen, M.D.

*Director, Hematology/Oncology
Chairman, Cancer Committee*

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 lung. The committee institutes programs to meet the standards of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.

This year, Holyoke Medical Center's cancer program has recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. There were still challenges in community outreach events. Facebook was utilized for educational programs. In person events did resume with the lung cancer screening program and a survivorship event at the Summit Restaurant in Holyoke. Drs. Dulala and Mateen visited senior centers in Holyoke and Chicopee for cancer education.

Cancer committee and conference meetings were still being done remotely.

Hospice and visiting nurses continued to visit terminally ill patients in their homes and at nursing homes.

The cancer committee's goal during 2023 was to initiate implementation of a wire-free localization radiofrequency tag and probe for breast cancer biopsies so that scheduling of biopsies can be done in a more expeditious manner. This was monitored throughout the year and was a success.

Dr. Francis Martinez is the liaison to the American College of Surgeons.

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 2023, the liaison reported on this data twice during the year using CQIP data and mortality data compared to data in the annual report.

In 2023, quality improvement studies were done on:

- 1) Non-small cell lung cancer**
- 2) Compliance with NCCN guidelines in colon cancer cases**
- 3) Colon cancer survival/treatment/stage study in annual report**

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 over ten years. In 2023, the cohort study published an article in Human Genomics entitled "The Mutational Landscape of a US Midwestern Breast Cancer Cohort Reveals Subtype-Specific Cancer Drivers and

A Year in Review

Prognostic Markers” recommending a more personalized approach to breast cancer treatment. This year, patients were also entered into clinical trials at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Mass General/Brigham and Baystate.

The committee identified the barriers to address through patient navigation in 2023 to focus on cancer patients’ nutrition and transportation issues. Patient navigation and psychosocial distress monitoring is done in the oncology department to address this and other 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. Barriers were based on the Holyoke Medical Center 2020-2023 Community Benefit Implementation Strategy.

The committee reviewed the policies for psychosocial distress, hospice, rehabilitation, nutrition and chemotherapy safety in 2023. The committee reports to the Patient

Care Assessment Committee of the hospital on five indicators: time between biopsy to surgery in breast cancer; outmigration of breast cancer patients; DVT/PE in patients with ports in oncology and no show rate in oncology.

Cancer Conferences were held during 2023 to assemble a multidisciplinary group, including medical oncologists, radiologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, pathologists, primary care physicians, oncology nurses, the cancer registrar and other specialists, 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. The hospital utilizes a remote conference using Zoom software in order to facilitate attendance by radiation oncology at Mass. General Cooley

Dickinson Hospital. At the end of 2023, participation by Cooley Dickinson Hospital was no longer possible, so efforts were being made for another radiation oncology partnership. This took a few months to negotiate.

The hospital is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers and the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.

The Holyoke Medical Center Cancer Registry continues to report close to 300 new diagnoses of malignancy each year. Rapid quality reporting continues in 2023 for all cancer cases.

A current follow up rate of 98% is maintained on all cases, with a 97% 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 records and Webex sessions, learning software updates has been made easier, along with the retrieval of cancer data. The registrar 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 2023. 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 and negotiating with radiation oncology services. 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 Registrar's lectures on Melanoma, Lower GI Cancer, Coding Practice, Data Item Relationships and Informatics in 2023.

2023 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.

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

Karen Crevier-Estes, R.N./Frances Fallon, R.N., Quality Improvement

*Marcel Moniz, VP/Marjorie Spitz, MBA, Administration

*Nancy Price, R.N., OCN, Oncology

*Francis Martinez, M.D./John Mazzucco, M.D., General Surgery, ACOS Cancer Liaison

*Zubeena Mateen, M.D./Renuka Dulala, M.D., Chairman, Medical Oncology

Rebecca MacGregor, Marketing

*Thomas Buck, M.D./Patricia Krebs, M.D., Pathology

*Steve Urbanski, M.D./Mrinal Mali, M.D., Radiology

*Nancy Almeyda, CN-BA, Social Work and Case Management

*April Bartley, R.N./Melissa Gentile, MSW, Hospice/VNA

*Genevieve Maquilan, M.D./John Sheldon, M.D., Radiation Oncology

*Indicates Breast Cancer Committee members

Additional members of the Breast Cancer Committee include:

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





Cancer Treatment At HMC

The Cancer Program Annual Report is a summary of the cancer experience at Holyoke Medical Center for 2022. 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 UpToDate 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. A lung conference is held weekly in the Pulmonology Dept. on Fridays.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Physicians are encouraged to obtain online professional education. CME is offered for Cancer Conferences.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Cancer screenings allow for early detection of some types of cancer. Holyoke Medical Center is dedicated to this early detection.

Facebook educational sessions were done on colon cancer in March and breast cancer in October. Cancer education was done in 2023 by HMC oncologists at the senior centers in Holyoke and Chicopee.

Lung cancer screening in the pulmonary department was done in 2023 and results reported to the cancer committee.

A Quit Smoking Workshop and Weight Management Information Sessions in Spanish and English were held online. Zumba exercise classes were offered online.

Mammogram appointments were offered at health fairs at two senior centers in Holyoke and Chicopee in the month of October.

Health Fairs/Community Events

In 2023, community in person events promoting healthy lifestyle habits were held. The hospital Facebook site was utilized to promote educational PowerPoint presentations on cancer prevention and screening. A Farmer's Market was begun in 2023 in the hospital's parking lot.

A community health needs assessment was undertaken in 2020 using the My Sidewalk website which uses local data provided by patient and employee surveys and state and national data. This site will continually be updated and is user friendly so that the public can easily access it. The community benefit department of the hospital oversees this program and will be tailoring community events to meet the needs established. The data is collected not only from the HMC Community Health Needs Assessment process but also from public data sources, such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The hospital used this data to develop their 2020-2023 community benefit implementation strategy, which was used by navigation to identify barriers to care.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Each October, Holyoke Medical Center promotes Breast Cancer Awareness month. A breast cancer education PowerPoint was done by the Oncology

Department on the hospital Facebook site. Mammography appointments were offered at health fairs. Breast cancer awareness is recognized at HMC throughout the month of October with visibility on computer screensavers throughout the hospital and the wearing of pink.

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. Interviews have been for television and print publications. These interviews are then shared through social media outlets, such as Facebook.

Cancer Support Groups

The Cancer Support Group program is open to all cancer patients and their families and caregivers, with Spanish interpreters available. Sponsored through Holyoke Medical Center's Oncology Department, this group meets every other month. The support groups offer many different topics during the year.

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.





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 2022 was breast cancer at 25%, followed by lung and colorectal cancer at 13%

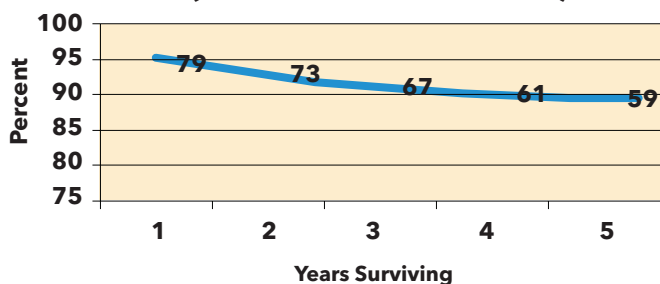
2022 FREQUENCY OF CANCER BY PRIMARY SITE (249 cases)		
PRIMARY SITE	# OF CASES	PERCENTAGE
Lung	33	13%
Breast	63	25%
Colorectal/Anus	33	13%
Bladder	13	5%
Lymphoma	7	3%
Pancreas	6	2%
Endometrium/Cervix/Vulva/Ovary	17	7%
Hematological	7	3%
Melanoma	2	<1%
Esophagus/Stomach	14	6%
Head/Neck	3	1%
Thyroid	6	2%
Kidney	9	4%
Prostate	24	10%
Liver/Biliary/Gallbladder	4	2%
Testis	2	<1%
Unknown Primary	6	2%
Total Cases	249	100%

COLORECTAL CANCER STUDY

According to the American Cancer Society an estimated 151,030 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2022. Of those cases, 2,940 will be diagnosed in Massachusetts. Deaths from colorectal cancer in 2022 are estimated to be 990 in Massachusetts.

The relative 5-year survival rate at Holyoke Medical Center for cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed between 2011-2017 is 59%. The national relative 5-year survival rate for breast cancer according to the American Cancer Society is 65%.

Colorectal Cancer Relative 5-Year Survival (203 cases Dx.2011-2017)



Localized stage of disease (Stage 0, I, II) was noted to be 56% of cases.

HMC COLORECTAL CANCER -STAGE OF DISEASE

(203 cases diagnosed 2011-2017)

Stage 0	6%
Stage I.....	22%
Stage II	28%
Stage III.....	18%
Stage IV	18%
Unknown.....	8%





HMC COLORECTAL CANCER-INITIAL TREATMENT

(203 cases diagnosed 2011-2017)

Chemotherapy alone	5
No treatment	33
Surgery alone	104
Surgery/Chemotherapy	31
Surgery/Radiation	4
Surgery/Radiation/Chemotherapy	11
Chemotherapy/Immunotherapy.....	1
Radiation/Chemotherapy	5
Radiation	8
Surgery/Chemotherapy/Immunotherapy.....	1

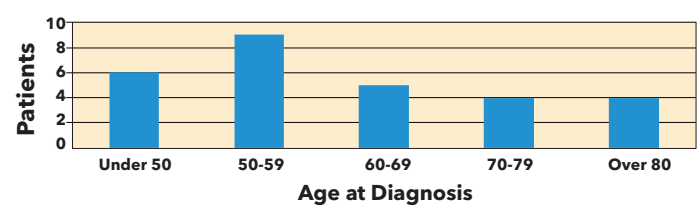
The largest treatment group for colorectal cancer at Holyoke Medical Center is surgery.

2022 COLORECTAL CANCER

(29 cases)

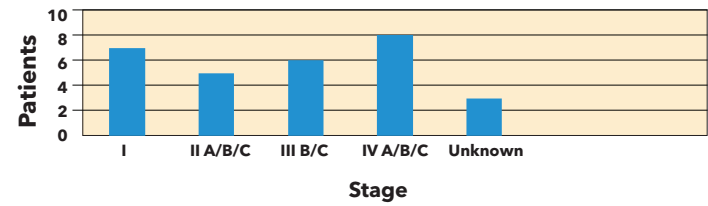
In 2022, there were 29 new cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed. The largest age group was the 50-59 years of age.

HMC Colorectal Cancer Age At Diagnosis 2022 (29 Cases)



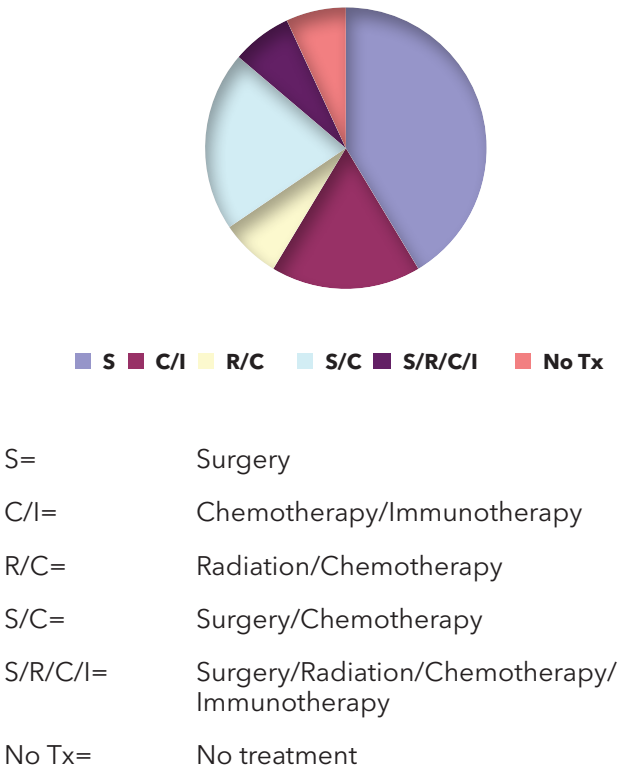
The largest stage group was Stage IV A/B/C

HMC Colorectal Cancer 2022 Stage At Diagnosis (29 Cases)



The largest treatment group is Surgery.

HMC Colorectal Cancer 2022 (29 Cases) Treatment



REFERENCES

American Cancer Society (2022) Cancer Facts & Figures
Holyoke Medical Center Cancer Registry, Reference Date 2005
Manual For Staging of Cancer, American Joint Commission on Cancer, Eighth edition, 2017





Holyoke Medical Center

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