

Summa Health Cancer Institute 2021 Outcomes Report



Carol,
Colorectal
Cancer Patient



A message from leadership

We are pleased to present to you the 2021 Annual Outcomes report for the Summa Health Cancer Institute. In 2021, we continued to grow as one of Northeast Ohio's most comprehensive cancer centers. Although we continued to face the challenges inherent with COVID-19, we still were able to expand our footprint within the region and continue to offer high quality, essential care while minimizing exposure to COVID-19 infection.

In the pages that follow, you can read more about several of our top initiatives, including:

- Three-year accreditation from the **National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC)**, a quality program of the American College of Surgeons. At the time of our accreditation, Summa Health was just one of two accredited programs in Ohio, and one of only 35 accredited programs nationwide.
- **Expanded breast care services in Medina**, offering care closer to home for many patients.
- Innovative radiation treatment protocols for certain breast cancer patients through **accelerated partial-breast irradiation**.
- Enhanced patient care and outcomes with our **new Renal Mass Clinic**.
- **Expansion of our patient navigator team**, providing a personal touch to more patients and supporting Summa Health's top five cancer sites.
- Significant transformations in the ways we diagnose, treat and prevent cancers of all types due to **generous philanthropic support**.
- An in-depth analysis of the **documented Deauville score on all restaging PET scans for Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**, which led to new protocols.
- **Groundbreaking and innovative treatment options** expanded through clinical research.

As the Summa Health Cancer Institute continues to grow and change, our goal remains unwavering: to cure cancer, whenever possible, while improving our patients' quality of life.

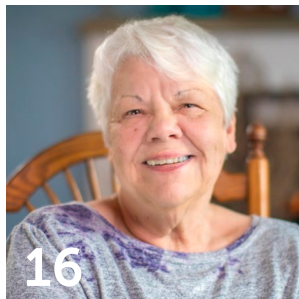
Sameer Mahesh, M.D.

Medical Director, Summa Health Cancer Institute
The Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Chair in Oncology

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In Our Patients' Own Words



Recognition

Accreditations

Cancer Program

American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer



The Oncology Program at Summa Health is fully accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC). The program includes our three cancer centers – the Summa Health Jean and Milton Cooper Pavilion at Summa Health System – Akron Campus, Summa Health Parkview Pavilion at Summa Health System – Barberton Campus and Summa Health Medina Medical Center. CoC accreditation is the hallmark of excellence and ensures that quality standards are consistently met and/or exceeded by our dedicated cancer care team members.

Radiation Oncology

American College of Radiology



Summa Health has earned the prestigious American College of Radiology (ACR) accreditation in radiation oncology. This places Summa Health amongst a select group of cancer care providers nationwide. Accreditation is awarded only to facilities that meet specific practice guidelines and technical standards developed by ACR after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified radiation oncologists and medical physicists.

Medical Oncology

The Quality Oncology Practice Initiative



Summa Health is one of a few cancer centers in Ohio to meet quality measures for medical oncology from the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI). QOPI is an oncologist-led, practice-based quality improvement program, whose goal is to promote excellence in cancer care by helping practices create a culture of self-examination and improvement.

Breast Imaging

American College of Radiology



The Summa Health Breast Imaging Centers at Summa Health System – Akron and Barberton Campuses were designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence (BICOE) by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The BICOE designation is awarded to breast imaging centers that achieve excellence by seeking and earning accreditation in all of the ACR's voluntary breast-imaging accreditation programs and modules, in addition to the mandatory Mammography Accreditation Program.

Breast Cancer Program

National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancers



The Summa Health Breast Program at Summa Health System – Akron and Barberton Campuses has been granted a three-year/full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons. Accreditation by the NAPBC is only given to those centers that have voluntarily committed to provide the highest level of quality breast care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance.

Lung Screening

Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence



Summa Health Lung Imaging Center was named a Screening Center of Excellence by the Lung Cancer Alliance for the ongoing commitment to responsible lung cancer screening.

Rectal Cancer Program

National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer



In November 2021, Summa Health Cancer Institute earned a three-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons. Summa Health is just one of three health systems in Ohio, and one of 65 accredited programs nationwide. Programs awarded this accreditation demonstrate compliance with NAPRC standards for program management, clinical services, quality improvement for patients and have an established multidisciplinary rectal cancer team.

Membership

NRG Oncology

NRG Oncology is a non-profit research organization formed to conduct oncologic clinical research and to broadly disseminate study results for informing clinical decision making and healthcare policy.

NRG Oncology seeks to improve the lives of cancer patients by conducting practice-changing multi-institutional clinical and translational research with emphases on gender-specific malignancies including gynecologic, breast and prostate cancers and on localized or locally advanced cancers of all types.



Awards

2021 Care Beyond Awards



Jordan Dolence,
RN, BSN, OCN



Brenda Gore, RN,
BSN, OCN, OCM



Lisa Lanham, RN,
BSN, OCN

2021 Cameos of Caring Award



Shelby Berdella,
RN

2021 Daisy Award Winners



Jessica Kachovec,
RN, BSN



Jennifer Montgomery,
RN, BSN

2021 Primary Cancer Sites

Primary Site	Total	Class		Sex	
		Analytic	Non-Analytic	Male	Female
All sites	2,256	2,231	25	981	1,275
Oral Cavity & Pharynx	62	61	1	42	20
Tongue	22	22	0	16	6
Salivary Glands	7	7	0	3	4
Floor of Mouth	3	3	0	3	0
Gum & Other Mouth	6	6	0	4	2
Nasopharynx	2	1	1	0	2
Tonsil	9	9	0	5	4
Oropharynx	9	9	0	7	2
Hypopharynx	4	4	0	4	0
Digestive System	307	302	5	160	147
Esophagus	23	22	1	17	6
Stomach	15	14	1	8	7
Small Intestine	12	12	0	6	6
Colon	99	98	1	49	50
Rectum/Rectosigmoid	47	47	0	26	21
Anus/Anal Canal/Anorectum	20	20	0	7	12
Liver/Intrahepatic Bile Duct	25	24	1	17	8
Gallbladder	7	7	0	2	5
Other Biliary	6	6	0	3	3
Pancreas	50	49	1	25	25
Peritoneum/Omentum/Mesentery	3	3	0	0	3
Respiratory System	338	336	2	186	152
Nose, Nasal Cavity & Middle Ear	1	1	0	1	0
Larynx	14	14	0	12	2
Lung/Bronchus	322	320	2	172	150
Trachea, Mediastinum & Other	1	1	0	1	0
Bones/Joints	8	8	0	4	4
Soft Tissue	29	29	0	21	8
Skin	49	48	1	21	28
Melanoma	41	40	1	21	28
Other Non-Epithelial Skin	8	8	0	5	3
Breast	414	413	1	2	412
Female Genital System	255	253	2	0	255
Cervix Uteri	23	21	2	0	23
Corpus & Uterus, NOS	151	151	0	0	151
Ovary	50	50	0	0	50
Vagina	1	1	0	0	1
Vulva	22	22	0	0	22
Other Female Genital Organs	8	8	0	0	8
Male Genital System	243	236	7	243	0
Prostate	235	228	7	235	0
Testis	6	6	0	0	6
Penis	2	2	0	2	0
Urinary System	225	220	5	153	72
Urinary Bladder	123	120	3	87	36
Kidney/Renal Pelvis	94	92	2	62	32
Ureter	5	5	0	4	1
Other Urinary Organs	3	3	0	0	3
Brain & CNS	75	75	0	23	52
Brain	20	20	0	8	12
Cranial Nerves Other Nervous System	55	55	0	15	40
Endocrine System	55	55	0	20	35
Thyroid	42	42	0	14	28
Other Endocrine including Thymus	13	13	0	6	7
Lymphoma	66	66	0	34	32
Hodgkin Lymphoma	5	5	0	1	4
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	61	61	0	33	28
Blood & Bone Marrow	94	93	1	56	38
Leukemia	38	38	0	20	18
Myeloma	32	31	1	22	10
Other Blood & Bone Marrow	24	24	0	14	10
Mesothelioma	6	8	6	7	1
Kaposi Sarcoma	1	1	0	1	0
Unknown Primary	29	29	0	17	12

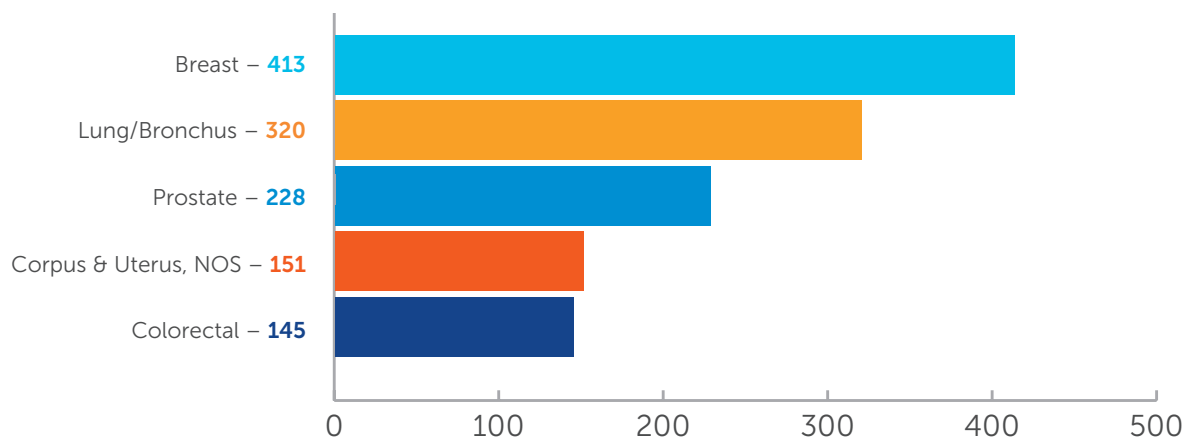
In Our Patients' Own Words

Barbara Bungard, Endometrial Cancer

"When I first got my diagnosis of uterine cancer at Summa, one of the very first questions that I asked was, do you have MyChart? Do you use MyChart? And that is crucial for me, because that's how I like to engage, to be able to know about your lab work, and to be able to ask questions related to your medications, or potential symptoms."



2021 Top Five Cancer Sites



Expanding Breast Care in Medina



Ashley Sheppard, CNP; Victoria Van Fossen, M.D.;
Craig Kornbau, M.D.; Kristina Gulotta, M.D.

In January 2021, the Summa Health Cancer Institute expanded its breast services at the Summa Health Medina Medical Center. With this expansion, from follow-up on abnormal mammogram results, on site image guided biopsy, and cancer treatment to survivorship, Summa Health can offer continuity of care for breast patients, close to home.

With the exception of surgery, this expansion provides breast patients access to a full spectrum of care. If there is a finding on a preventive screening, patients can quickly schedule an appointment with a provider, sometimes even a same day consult. Many patients are able to receive a biopsy the same day, if needed. This type of expedited care and expert navigation helps patients' overall outcomes and eases burdens of worry with less time to wait for results.

A full suite of breast imaging is available in Medina, including 3D mammography for screening and diagnostics, diagnostic ultrasound and ultrasound-guided core biopsy. While a mammogram is the most important screening exam for early breast cancer detection, a Breast MRI or FAST MRI are additional tools for breast evaluation in females with increased lifetime risk for breast cancer or females with dense breasts. Both are highly sensitive and can better detect smaller cancers not seen on a mammogram, with no radiation exposure. These tests supplement, not replace, a yearly mammogram based on a healthcare provider's recommendation.

Some patients are encouraged to access the High Risk Breast Clinic, whose goal is to help patients identify their lifetime risk and work to minimize their risk of developing breast cancer. Summa Health offers the only one of its kind in Medina County.

At the Clinic, patients can receive:

- Cancer risk evaluation
- High risk screening
- Preventive options for individuals at increased risk for breast cancer
- Genetic counseling and testing

For individuals that qualify for genetic testing, patients can take all necessary steps right in the office the day of their appointment.

As of 2021, new patient evaluations for abnormal breast imaging or breast concerns are available in Medina. If a cancer diagnosis is made, patients can receive the majority of their treatment in Medina, with outpatient infusion and radiation services, including accelerated partial-breast irradiation.

Finally, patients can take advantage of survivorship support, including:

- Nutrition support
- Psychosocial support
- Integrative therapies
- Support groups
- Education
- Financial counseling

Medina County patients do not need to go elsewhere to manage their breast health — care is available just around the corner at Summa Medina Medical Center.

2021



**470 Total
Patients Seen**



**171 Total
New Patients**



**97 Total New
High Risk
Patients**

2022 (January - May)



**211 Total
Patients Seen**



**68 Total
New Patients**



**37 Total New
High Risk
Patients**



**18 Total
Genetic Tests**

New Treatment Option through Accelerated Partial-Breast Irradiation

Radiation therapy is a critical component in breast cancer care. For decades, radiation therapy has been used after surgery in individuals diagnosed with breast cancer, as it can lower the risk of the cancer recurring. Radiation can be used after both a mastectomy, or removal of the entire breast, as well as after a partial mastectomy, or removal of just the cancer. Typically, after a partial mastectomy, radiation is delivered to the entire breast, aptly named external beam whole-breast radiation. The source of the radiation is outside the breast, which is why it is called "external beam." Traditional whole-breast radiation therapy aims cancer-destroying energy at the entire breast. Whole-breast radiation therapy is usually given as one treatment per day, five days a week, for four to six weeks.

Whole-breast radiation was not without its drawbacks, though, particularly the duration of treatment. Over time, it was discovered that the cancer was most likely to come back in and around where it originally was in females who meet certain criteria, meaning the rest of the breast wasn't necessarily at risk. Researchers proposed that perhaps radiation for the entire breast wasn't always necessary.

In addition, studies have shown that a six-week treatment course may be difficult for some patients to complete, especially if they live far away from a treatment center. This led to some patients not receiving this standard of care treatment. To overcome this, radiation oncologists have developed alternative radiation therapy options. Accelerated partial-breast irradiation is one such alternative, which gives a higher radiation dose over a shorter period of time precisely to only where the cancer was. It is delivered over five days, every other day.

During the ongoing pandemic, the Radiation Oncology team at the Summa Health Cancer Institute was exploring ways to minimize the number of people coming in and out of our facilities for safety purposes while still delivering safe and effective radiation treatments.

In 2020, the team began developing a program based on the current pandemic environment and the results of a newly published 10-year study from Europe that showed accelerated partial-breast irradiation was safe and effective. A multidisciplinary team of radiation oncologists and breast surgeons was tasked with establishing eligibility criteria, surgical parameters and radiation treatment delivery workflows.

Patients that would benefit from this type of radiation were people with Stage 0 OR Stage I hormone positive breast cancers. Once the Summa Breast Cancer team established and vetted the workflow, the first patient was treated in January 2021. During the 2021 calendar year, 16 patients were treated with this novel approach.

To measure outcomes, the team is monitoring cancer recurrence, the patient's cosmetic rating of poor/fair or good/excellent and patient reported pain levels.

Of the 16 patients to date:

Cancer recurrence 0

Cosmesis Good/excellent in all

Pain complaints 0

The Summa Breast Cancer team continues to monitor these patients going forward and tweak the treatment delivery as needed. Already, more patients have been treated in 2022 with this technique than in all of 2021.

In 2022, the workflow changed from receiving a treatment every other day for a total of five treatments, to the possibility of five treatments on consecutive days. This means eligible breast cancer patients can be done with the entire course of radiation within one single week.

Looking further ahead, the Radiation Oncology team at the Summa Health Cancer Institute plans to apply these paradigms and extrapolate these principles to different disease sites, such as spine cancer, prostate cancer and liver cancer.

Joyce Alexander is one of the patients who has benefited from accelerated partial-breast irradiation after getting her diagnosis.

"As difficult as it was hearing that news, I was surrounded by the best team and grateful to qualify for the accelerated radiation treatment option at Summa Health."

Renal Mass Clinic

Expedited Care through New Renal Mass Clinic

Small renal masses are increasingly detected incidentally at imaging. Approximately 10 to 15 percent of abdominal CT scans at Summa Health have a renal abnormality. They vary widely in histology and aggressiveness, and include benign renal tumors and renal cell carcinomas that can be either indolent or aggressive.

Evaluation of these renal findings can be cumbersome, making it difficult for ordering providers (typically primary care or emergency department personnel) to know which ones needed referrals for further evaluation. Historically at Summa Health, when one of these masses was detected, the physician automatically sent the case to urology or oncology for further evaluation.

Patients were left wondering what next steps should be. The time between renal mass detection and recommendation of next steps can be extremely stressful for the patient and their families.

Summa Health wanted to develop a better way to manage these cases, and in the spring of 2021, established the Summa Health Renal Mass Clinic.

This dedicated team of experts can handle everything along the continuum of kidney care including:

- Expedited appointments for patients with masses that are concerning for kidney cancer and are recommended to have immediate follow-up testing.
- Continued follow-up for smaller renal masses that need ongoing surveillance.
- Continued surveillance for patients who have had prior treatment for kidney cancer, but need ongoing surveillance.

This multidisciplinary team can facilitate kidney cancer screenings, complete rapid evaluation of masses and take a multidisciplinary approach to kidney cancer treatment.

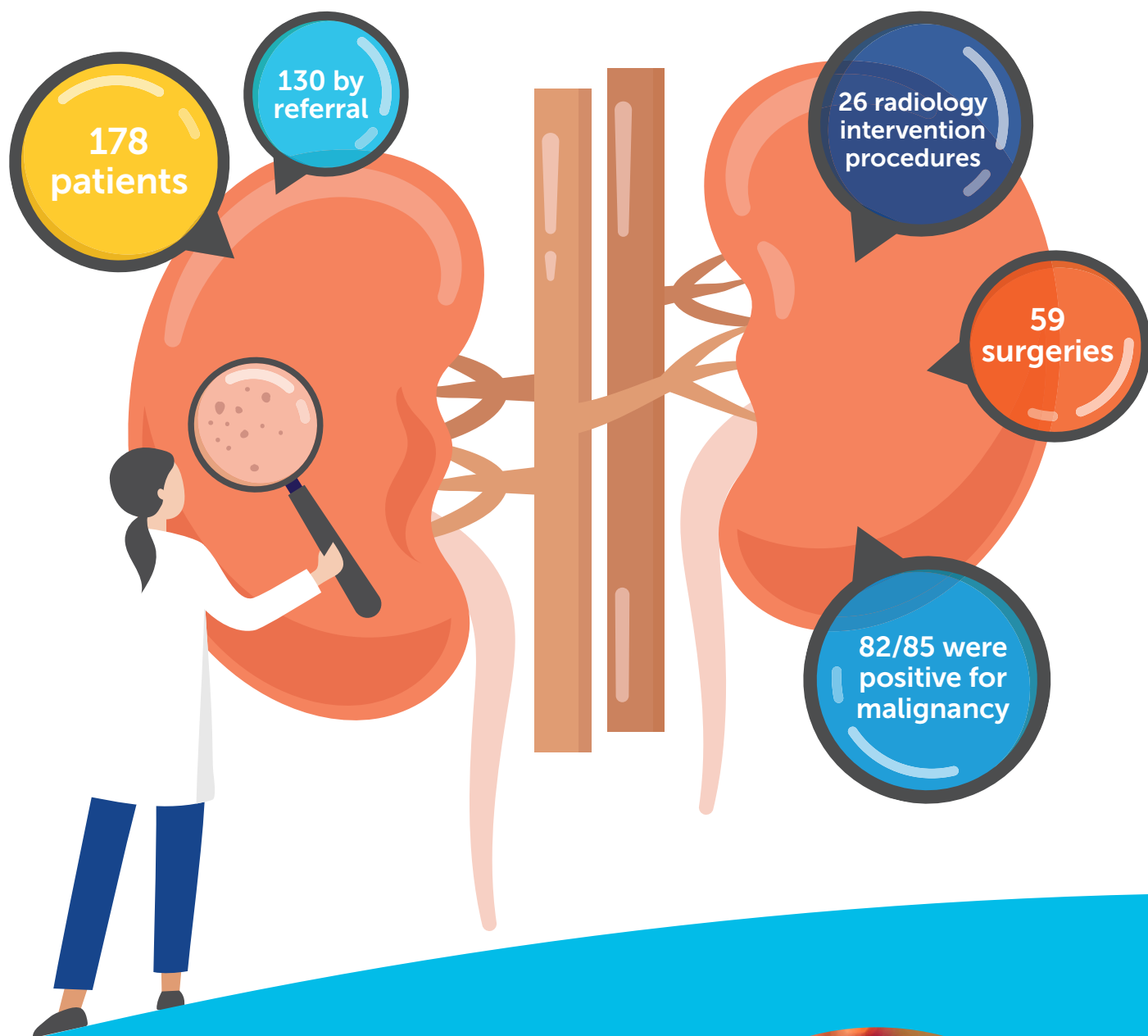
The navigator plays an important role in this process. If there are abnormal results, the navigator contacts the patient while they are waiting for their follow-up appointment, and at the direction of the physician, can order additional imaging. These additional tests can provide concrete evidence for decision-making at the follow-up appointment, making it a more valuable appointment for the patient with shortened time to diagnosis and less days of worry.

Radiologist David Rosenblum, D.O., in collaboration with radiology and urology, used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to develop an algorithm to identify renal masses that were more urgent. He created specific phrases (macros) that a radiologist may use when completing their report. These specifically created macros can then categorize the reading into certain “buckets.” This algorithm, based on size of mass and other criteria, helps the patient navigator determine which patients need to be seen expeditiously, and which others can be referred back to their primary care providers for follow-up in a year.

Key to outcomes is quick action. Since implementing the Summa Health Renal Mass Clinic, we have seen earlier detection of renal cancers with earlier interventions and quicker access to care. We have also been able to prioritize patients and cases more efficiently and effectively. All of this has led to a dramatic increase in both patient and provider satisfaction. Additionally, we have noted a 10 percent increase in renal mass cases in 2021 compared to 2020.

In its first year, 82 of 85 patients identified by macros were positive for malignancy, demonstrating that the process was identifying the right patients to be seen in an expeditious manner.

The implementation of the Summa Health Renal Mass Clinic has helped primary care providers and ordering physicians navigate their patients more efficiently and effectively, leading to higher level of provider satisfaction, value of time and more streamlined care coordination.



In Our Patients' Own Words

Amy Hallett, Kidney Cancer

"When I heard the word cancer, my heart fell. But Dr. Nothing gave me hope. He had a plan of care in place by the time I left that first visit."



Navigators Play Special Role in Patient Care

For years, Summa Health has employed patient navigators in the Summa Health Cancer Institute.

These patient navigators provide individualized assistance to patients, families and caregivers to help them overcome barriers to care.

These services include, but are not limited to:

- Providing education, support and coordination to assist patients in securing appointments
- Connecting patients and families to resources and support services
- Promoting communication between patients and healthcare providers
- Coordinating services throughout the care continuum
- Enhancing patients' quality of life, sense of autonomy and self-determination for managing their own health
- Reinforcing and strengthening the physician-patient relationship

These individuals serve in a very relationship-based role that helps to establish trust with patients and offers support and encouragement. Navigators follow patients from their first abnormal test early in their diagnosis throughout the entire continuum of care. They become a true resource for cancer patients and their families.

In 2021, Summa Health restructured the navigator model. They identified barriers to care with the goal to provide patients seamless care throughout their cancer journey. Whether it was absence of transportation, lack of family support or insurance issues, navigators could assist with identifying appropriate resources.

This team could also help facilitate expedited care if necessary. With knowledge of the system's processes, these individuals could help patients navigate the system more easily and expedite care. They also were experts in overcoming any internal barriers.

In 2021, this valuable team grew by two roles to help support Summa Health's top five cancer sites.

Previously, the team supported breast, thoracic/lung and digestive/colorectal cancer patients. In 2021, we added a navigator for urological oncology to support the Renal Mass Clinic as well as bladder and prostate cancer patients. Summa also added a gynecologic oncology navigator in that specialty area to assist patients with education and access to resources.

Looking ahead, after the rollout of Summa Health's own instance of Epic, we will be able to establish more concrete results through the new navigation dashboard. This tool will provide insights as to if we are narrowing the time elapsed between diagnosis and first treatment, a true quality metric.

Oncology Nurse Navigators



Felicia Edwards, MSN, RN
Breast Health



Megan Felcyn, BSN, RN
Gynecologic Health



Joelle Hicks, BSN, RN
Thoracic and Head/Neck



Cindy Jones, BSN, RN, OCN
Multi-type



Kari Kovach, BSN, RN, CBCN
Breast Health



Mary Ostrow, BSN, RN, OCN
Urologic Oncology



Scarlett Semprini, BSN, RN, OCN
Digestive Health

Fueled by Philanthropy ... The Summa Health Cancer Institute



"My colleagues and I at the Summa Health Cancer Institute have the privilege of working in an area of specialization that is deeply rewarding and, at the same time, rapidly evolving. New discoveries are made every day that can lead to significant transformations in the

ways we diagnose, treat and prevent cancers of all types — and, ultimately, lead us to a cure.

"Philanthropy creates and fuels opportunities for innovations that are essential to this goal. With the help of our closest friends and benefactors, we can ensure the Summa Health Cancer Institute is equipped with top physician talent, the latest technologies and comprehensive patient support services that position us to lead in a new era of cancer care."

Sameer Mahesh, M.D.

Medical Director, Summa Health Cancer Institute
The Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Chair in Oncology

How gifts to the Summa Health Cancer Institute make a difference



Medical research
and innovation

Recruitment
of top talent



Continued education
for the next generation
of caregivers



Supportive care
services provided at
no cost to patients
and their families

Call Summa Foundation at **330.375.3159**
to discuss giving opportunities in support
of cancer programs and services.

In Our Patients' Own Words

Nadera Bacchus, Breast Cancer

"This cancer experience has made me more spiritual. I have a different type of feeling in my heart and I feel as if I've got a second chance in life."



Commission on Cancer Chapter 7

Quality Improvement

Standard 7.3 Improving Scores in Radiology

Summa Health System 2021

Study Topic: Review the documentation of Deauville score on all restaging PET scans for Hodgkin's Lymphoma (HL) and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) patients.

Oscar Streeter, M.D., Quality Improvement Coordinator

John Lahorra, M.D., Radiologist

Melissa Smith, RHIT, CTR, Manager, Cancer Registry

Dawn McDaniel, Manager, Nuclear Medicine

Kim Kovach, Manager, Applications Development, Radiology



Oscar Streeter, M.D.
Quality Improvement
Coordinator



Melissa Smith,
RHIT, CTR
Manager, Cancer
Registry

In 2021, the medical oncologists at the Summa Health Cancer Institute noted that they were not always seeing a documented Deauville five-point score on all restaging PET scans for Hodgkin's Lymphoma (HL) and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL). Based on this observance and a multidisciplinary discussion, the team pulled all of the PET scans from the radiology system for May 6, 2020, through May 6, 2021. Excluded from the review were any scans that were an initial PET scan or there was no prior PET scan in the system to review. There were 64 unique PET scans and 14 did not have a Deauville score documented. It was determined from the data that a problem did exist.

Study Data

Total Cases in Review	64
Percentage with Deauville Score	78%
Goal	100%

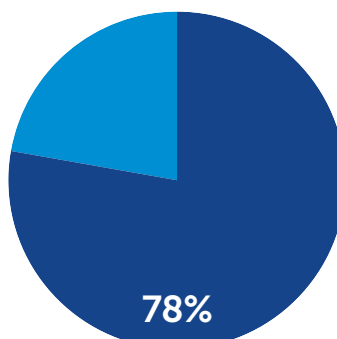
Assessment

The Quality Improvement (QI) team members met on June 8, 2021, to discuss the data and how to meet a 100% benchmark. It was determined that the reading radiologist was not always made aware that the PET scan was for restaging and the medical oncologist or radiation oncologist was not aware that they needed to document as such. There was also some discussion regarding the fact there must always be a prior PET scan available for review to be able to document a score on the restaging PET.

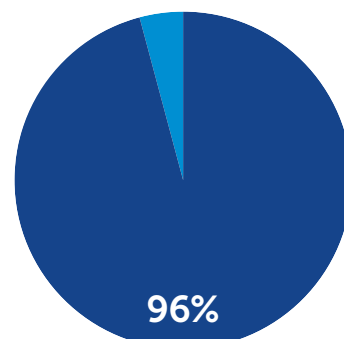
Recommendations/Action Plan

1. Remind radiologists reading PET scans to document a Deauville score on all restaging HL and NHL patients.
2. Ordering medical oncologist/radiation oncologist will add the comment, "Restaging Post-Treatment" to the order for the PET.
3. If Deauville score is missing, the ordering medical oncologist/radiation oncologist will send a Perfect Serve message to the dictating radiologist and Dawn McDaniel from radiology.
4. The dictating radiologist will send a Perfect Serve message to the ordering physician if they find that the restaging comment is missing from the order that it is a restaging PET.
5. Data collection phase would start on June 9, 2021, and PET scans would be pulled again in November.
6. Goal would be set at 100%.

PET scans were reviewed again in November 2021. There were 24 restaging PET scans. Twenty-three (96%) had a Deauville score documented in the report. One report did not contain the Deauville score. The QI team met again in late November to discuss the findings. The radiologist who dictated the PET scan without the Deauville score was contacted and the report will be updated. It was decided that the process that was implemented is working and would continue. A summary of the project and findings was reported at the December 8, 2021 Cancer Committee meeting for any additional actions.



Before Intervention
50/64



After Intervention
23/24

In Our Patients' Own Words

Craig Jenkins, Throat Cancer

"Dr. Khalil and Summa saved me. My bride passed away of cancer, and she left me two beautiful daughters that I get to enjoy the rest of my life. There's a lot to live for, for sure."



National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer



Additionally, our program met standards addressing the clinical services that the rectal cancer program provides, including Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA testing), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computerized Tomography (CT) imaging for cancer staging which allow patients to start treatment within a defined timeframe.

In November 2021, the Summa Health Cancer Institute received accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC). This three-year accreditation from the NAPRC is a quality program of the American College of Surgeons. At the time, Summa Health was just one of two accredited programs in Ohio, and one of only 35 accredited programs nationwide.

To achieve this accreditation, a rectal cancer center program must demonstrate compliance with the NAPRC standards addressing program management, clinical services and quality improvement for patients. Programs are required to establish a rectal cancer multidisciplinary team that includes clinical representatives from surgery, pathology, radiology, radiation oncology and medical oncology.



"Our team is extremely proud to have earned this distinction as it reflects the talent, hard work and dedication of the entire colorectal disease team at Summa Health."

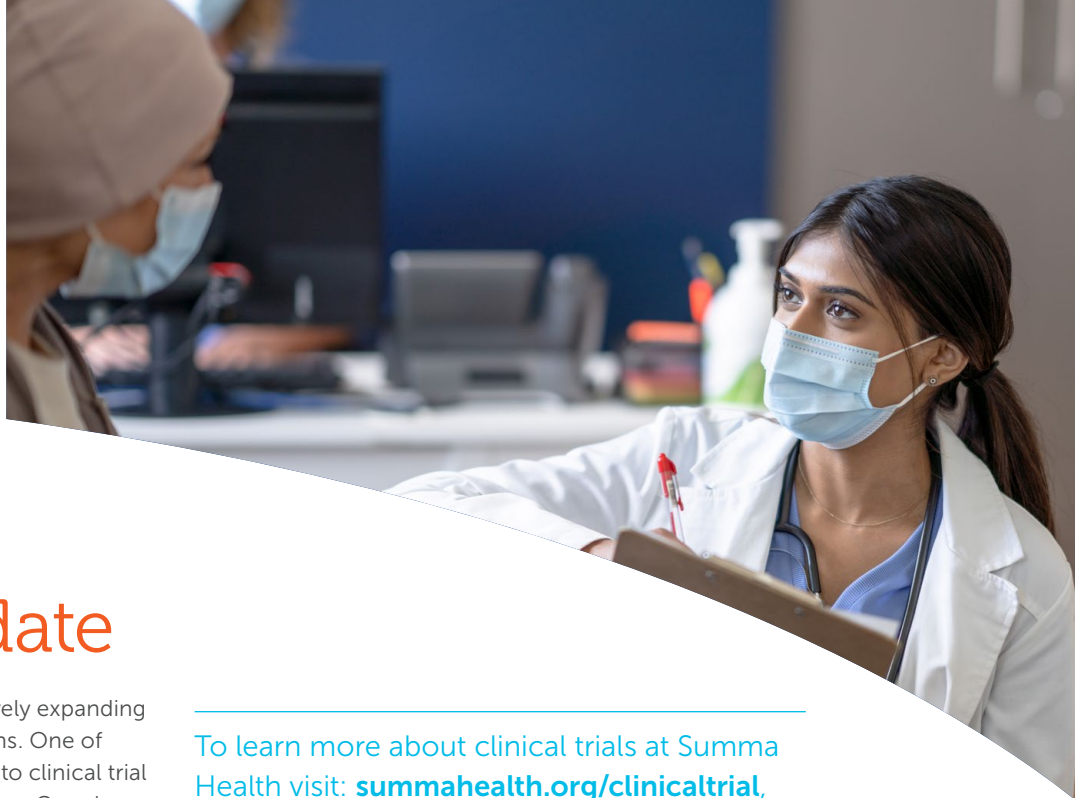
Truong Ma, M.D.
Rectal Cancer Program
Director



In Our Patients' Own Words

Suzanne Titus, Colorectal Cancer

"My advice to everyone is to get that colonoscopy. It saved my life."



Research Update

The Summa Health Cancer Institute is actively expanding its services to other Summa Health locations. One of these initiatives includes expanding access to clinical trial opportunities. The Clinical Research Center – Oncology recently extended clinical trial accessibility to patients receiving cancer treatment at Summa Health System — Barberton Campus and Summa Health Medina Medical Center.

The research staff worked closely with the medical physics team to credential the radiation equipment at these locations, which is a critical step in opening trials. The Barberton and Medina pharmacy staff also were credentialed and trained to conduct clinical trials. Due to these efforts, the clinical trial portfolio at both Barberton and Medina has doubled. Trials for breast, prostate and head and neck cancer are now available at these sites.

In 2021, the Clinical Research Center-Oncology continued to face challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Drug shortages, staffing shortages and fluctuating COVID-19 transmission rates challenged the research staff to think outside the box to maintain a high level of clinical trial compliance and data integrity, while ensuring the ongoing safety of the 281 active clinical trial participants. Despite these challenges, we initiated seven new clinical trials, and 88 new participants enrolled in clinical trials at Summa Health. These efforts helped the Cancer Institute maintain accreditations such as the Commission on Cancer, NAPBC and NRG Oncology, which is evidence of the commitment to bring innovative treatment options to Summa patients and advance medicine by continuously working to identify better treatment options for future Summa patients.

To learn more about clinical trials at Summa Health visit: summahealth.org/clinicaltrial, email research@summahealth.org or call **330.375.4221**.



“What an exciting time to be part of the clinical research experience for cancer treatment! Testing new medications, looking at various radiation treatment schedules, testing support medications and participating in a validation study for cancer prediction. We continue to expand our services across the centers to provide quality advanced care for our patients. When needed the most, Summa’s team is here for the patients and their families — excellent care in our community.”

Desiree Doncals, M.D.
Summa Health Principal Investigator

Committee Members

Outcomes Report Project Committee

Donna Burson

Senior Corporate Communications Strategist

Sameer Mahesh, M.D.

Medical Director

Tracy Mondello

Program Coordinator, Clinical Research

Samantha Pudelski

Senior Marketing Strategist

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In Our Patients' Own Words

Yvonne Oliver, Breast Cancer

"I'm a two-time breast cancer survivor. Both times my cancer was detected on an annual mammogram at Summa Health. I wanted the very best care that I could get. And that option for me was Summa."



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