

Summa Health Cancer Institute 2025 Outcomes Report



summahealth.org/cancer

A message from leadership

We are pleased to present the 2025 Annual Outcomes Report for Summa Health Cancer Institute, highlighting the meaningful progress we have made in advancing cancer care and supporting patients throughout their journey.

This year, we are especially proud to feature several important radiation oncology innovations that are improving how we diagnose, plan and deliver treatment, as well as our ongoing efforts to advance access to BiTE therapy for appropriate patients. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to expanding promising treatment options, supporting more personalized care and improving the overall patient experience. Together, these advancements demonstrate our investment in leading-edge technology, multidisciplinary collaboration and care that helps improve outcomes and reduce treatment burden for patients.

The report also highlights our continued commitment to prevention and early detection, including a community screening event in Barberton that helped connect individuals with education, resources and access to care close to home. Efforts like this are an important part of our mission to reach people earlier, remove barriers and support healthier communities.

The following pages share these stories, accomplishments and examples of the dedication our teams bring to cancer care every day.

Our oncology team remains deeply committed to providing the highest standard of cancer care in the region. We understand the challenges patients and families face, and we are here to provide comprehensive support at every stage of their journey. Through compassionate, patient-centered care, we strive to improve each patient's experience and contribute to a future free from cancer.

Sameer Mahesh, M.D.

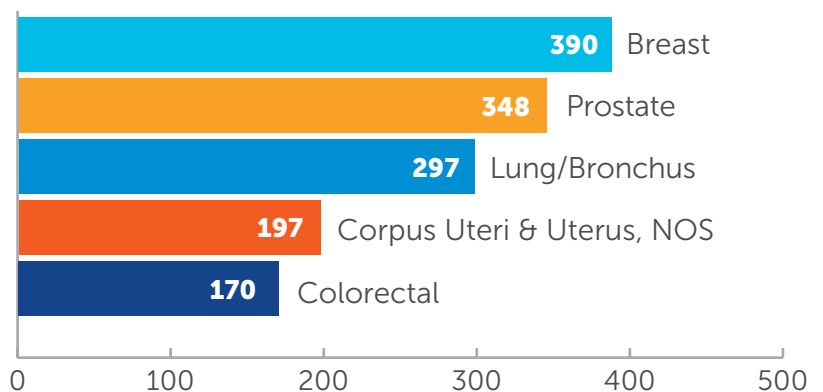
Medical Director, Summa Health Cancer Institute
The Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Chair in Oncology



2025

Key Statistics

Top 5 Cancer Sites



Primary Cancer Sites

Primary Site	Class	Sex	
	Analytic	Male	Female
All sites	2,401	1,083	1,318
Oral Cavity & Pharynx	46	30	16
Lip	1	0	1
Tongue	6	3	3
Salivary Glands	5	3	2
Gum & Other Mouth	4	3	1
Nasopharynx	2	2	0
Tonsil	14	10	4
Oropharynx	5	4	1
Hypopharynx	4	4	0
Other Oral Cavity & Pharynx	5	2	3
Digestive System	320	172	148
Esophagus	24	18	6
Stomach	32	17	15
Small Intestine	5	3	2
Colon	111	55	56
Rectum/Rectosigmoid	59	38	21
Anus/Anal Canal/Anorectum	16	4	12
Liver/Intrahepatic Bile Duct	20	13	7
Gallbladder	1	0	1
Other Biliary	7	4	3
Pancreas	41	20	21
Retroperitoneum	1	0	1
Peritoneum, Omentum & Mesentery	2	0	2
Other Digestive Organs	1	0	1
Respiratory System	322	160	162
Nose, Nasal Cavity & Middle Ear	2	1	1
Larynx	23	20	3
Lung/Bronchus	297	139	158
Bones/Joints	7	4	3
Soft Tissue	23	11	12
Skin	41	25	16
Melanoma	32	19	13
Other Non-Epithelial Skin	9	6	3
Breast	390	0	390
Female Genital System	313	0	313
Cervix Uteri	29	0	29
Corpus & Uterus, NOS	197	0	197
Ovary	50	0	50
Vagina	2	0	2
Vulva	28	0	28
Other Female Genital Organs	7	0	7
Male Genital System	363	363	0
Prostate	348	348	0
Testis	11	11	0
Penis	3	3	0
Other Male Genital Organs	1	1	0
Urinary System	233	153	80
Urinary Bladder	102	75	27
Kidney/Renal Pelvis	116	68	48
Ureter	13	9	4
Other Urinary Organs	2	1	1
Brain & CNS	66	30	36
Brain	26	18	8
Cranial Nerves Other Nervous System	40	12	28
Endocrine System	78	29	49
Thyroid	59	18	41
Other Endocrine including	19	11	8
Lymphoma	77	44	33
Hodgkin Lymphoma	6	3	3
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	71	41	30
Blood & Bone Marrow	94	47	47
Leukemia	28	13	15
Myeloma	40	19	21
Other Blood & Bone Marrow	26	15	11
Mesothelioma	3	0	3
Kaposi Sarcoma	2	2	0
Unknown Primary	23	11	12

Awards and Accreditations

2025 Care Beyond Awards



Kathryn Askey,
RN



Bryce
Hamburger, RN



Kelly Habig



Kacie Jones, RN



Sue Newbrough,
BSN, RN



Erica Selinsky



Michelle
Zimmerman, RN



Jessie Zupan, RN

2025 Daisy Award Winners



Shelby Berdella,
BSN, RN



Kacie Jones,
BSN, RN

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 on the campus of Summa Health System – Akron Campus, Summa Health Parkview Pavilion at Summa Health System – Barberton Campus and Summa Health Medina Medical Center.



A QUALITY PROGRAM
of the AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

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.



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).



Breast Cancer Program

National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancers (NAPBC)

The Summa Health Breast Program at Summa Health System – Akron and Barberton Campuses maintains a three-year/full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a quality program administered of the American College of Surgeons, awarded in 2024.



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 (NAPRC)

The Summa Health Cancer Institute maintains a three-year/full accreditation designation from the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons, awarded in 2024.



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.



Advancing Research. Improving Lives.™

Vision RT Supports More Precise, Patient-Centered Radiation Therapy

In 2025, Summa Health advanced its radiation oncology capabilities with the addition of Vision RT, a surface-guided radiation therapy system that helps clinicians deliver treatment with greater precision, efficiency and patient comfort.

Installed on one machine at the Jean & Milton Pavilion on Summa Health System — Akron Campus, the technology uses sophisticated camera systems to monitor a patient's body surface in real time during setup and treatment. This allows the care team to confirm that the patient is positioned correctly and to detect even small movements before or during radiation delivery.

This level of monitoring is especially important for patients whose treatment requires breath-hold techniques, including many breast cancer patients. For left-sided breast cancer, a deep breath can help move the heart away from the treatment area, reducing radiation exposure to the heart and lungs while allowing radiation to be directed more precisely to the cancer. Vision RT supports this approach by tracking the patient's position and breathing pattern throughout treatment. If the patient moves outside the planned position or releases the breath hold, the system can help pause treatment until the patient is safely repositioned.

For patients, the experience is also less invasive. Vision RT can reduce reliance on traditional positioning marks, restrictive immobilization devices and the Active Breathing Coordinator (ABC) previously used for some breath-hold treatments. Instead of having their breath held for them through a mouthpiece-type device, patients can hold their own breath as comfortably as possible while the system monitors their position. Clinicians report that this has made breath-hold treatment more accessible to patients who may have struggled with older methods.

Beyond breast cancer, Vision RT can be used whenever respiratory motion may affect treatment accuracy, including select cases involving the liver, lung, kidneys or chest wall. By

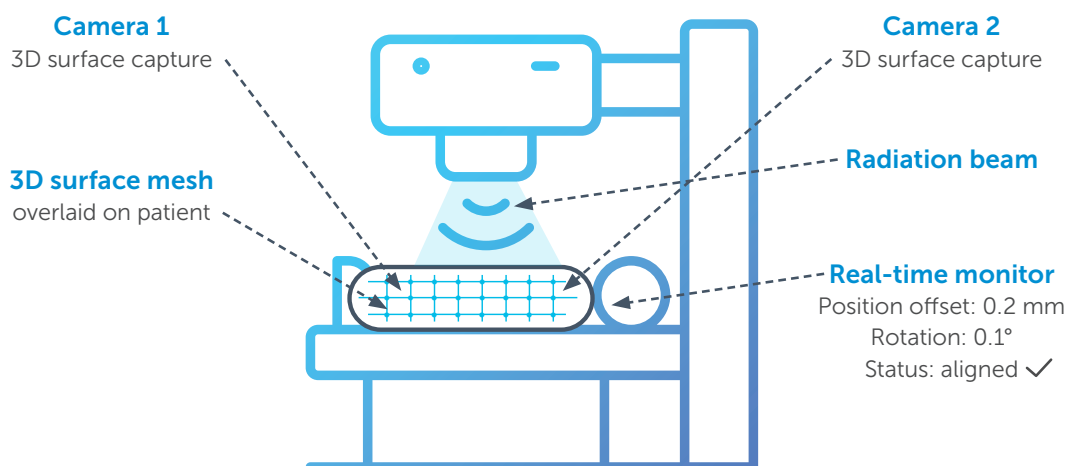


From the radiation oncology team: Anand Desai, M.D., Sue Newbrough, BSN, RN, Rajesh Pidikiti, Ph.D.

continuously monitoring patient movement, the system gives the radiation oncology team another tool to help keep motion minimal, protect surrounding healthy tissue and deliver treatment as planned.

Vision RT also supports a more efficient treatment workflow. Because the system helps confirm patient positioning quickly and accurately, it can reduce setup time and may lessen the need for additional imaging in certain situations. While the amount of time saved varies by patient and treatment type, the added efficiency benefits both patients and the care team by making the treatment process smoother and more streamlined.

As Summa Health continues to invest in advanced cancer care, Vision RT reflects a broader commitment to precision, safety and patient-centered innovation. By combining real-time tracking with a less invasive treatment experience, the technology is helping the radiation oncology team deliver highly targeted care while making treatment more comfortable for the patients who need it.



Pediatric Radiation Oncology Expands Cancer Care for Young Patients

In 2025, Summa Health advanced its commitment to comprehensive cancer care by launching pediatric radiation oncology services in collaboration with Akron Children's Hospital. The program gives children and young adults who need radiation therapy access to Summa Health's advanced radiation oncology technology and experienced care team, while maintaining the pediatric expertise and support of Akron Children's.

The first patient was treated in November 2024, following nearly 14 months of planning, training and coordination between the two organizations. That preparation included new clinical and transport policies, staff training in Pediatric Advanced Life Support, installation of pediatric medication and emergency resources, and joint mock-code exercises with Akron Children's. These steps helped ensure the program could support pediatric patients safely and efficiently in the Jean and Milton Cooper Pavilion on Summa Health System — Akron Campus.

Through the collaboration, appropriate patients are identified by Akron Children's oncology teams and referred to Summa Health for treatment. When conscious sedation is needed to help younger children remain still during radiation therapy, Akron Children's provides a physician and two nurses to manage sedation and recovery, while Summa Health's radiation oncology team delivers treatment. A child life specialist also helps prepare patients and families by introducing them to the space, equipment and process before they arrive.



In its first full year, the program treated approximately 25 pediatric and young adult patients for malignant and benign conditions, with patients ranging from age 3 to 21. Summa Health also supported care for a patient enrolled in a national clinical trial, reflecting the program's ability to meet complex care requirements and contribute to advancing treatment options.

Beyond the clinical milestones, the program has been defined by compassion. Staff have found creative ways to ease anxiety, from decorating treatment masks based on a child's interests to celebrating treatment milestones in meaningful ways. By combining advanced radiation techniques with pediatric-focused support, Summa Health and Akron Children's are expanding access to specialized care for some of the region's youngest patients.

Bringing Cancer Prevention and Screening into the Barberton Community

Preventive care is one of the most important ways we can improve cancer outcomes, and screenings play a critical role in finding cancer early, when treatment is often more effective. In 2025, Summa Health continued its commitment to making prevention and early detection more accessible by hosting a free Cancer Screening and Prevention Event for the community.

Held September 13 at Parkview Pavilion on Summa Health System — Barberton Campus, the event welcomed 66 attendees and connected community members with education, resources and opportunities to take an active role in their health. Throughout the day, participants could learn from Summa Health experts, attend workshops and schedule recommended screenings based on their personal risk factors and health needs.



Screenings offered at the event included skin screenings, mammograms and cancer risk assessments. There were cancer screening educational materials available to attendees, in addition to CT lung cancer screening materials and smoking cessation.

By bringing these services together in one community-based setting, Summa Health helped reduce common barriers to preventive care, including uncertainty about which screenings are needed, how to access them and where to begin.

Expanding Access to Advanced Cancer Therapy

For patients who need bispecific T-cell engager (BiTE) therapy, access to ongoing treatment has been a significant barrier. BiTE therapy is an advanced form of cancer immunotherapy used for selected patients with certain cancers, such as multiple myeloma, lymphoma, leukemia and small cell lung cancer, often after standard treatments are no longer effective. Because this therapy has traditionally been available only through larger academic medical centers, patients frequently faced the burden of traveling away from home to receive care.

BiTE therapy involves two phases of treatment. The initial step-up dosing phase carries a higher risk of side effects and requires close monitoring, often in an inpatient setting at a large academic medical center. Historically, patients then continued into the maintenance phase at those same institutions.

For many patients, that made the maintenance phase especially burdensome, requiring repeated travel far from home for ongoing treatment. The time commitment, transportation demands and disruption to daily life created a significant access barrier. To address this challenge, in 2025 the Summa Health Cancer Institute implemented maintenance BiTE therapy, allowing eligible patients to receive ongoing treatment closer to home after completing step-up dosing at an academic center. This approach reduced the burden of travel while expanding access to a highly specialized therapy within a strong, safety-focused care model.

Summa Health added three BiTE therapies to its formulary, created treatment plan order sets, coordinated manufacturer-supported staff education and developed a formal policy approved through the Cancer Committee.

This work required close collaboration across oncology, infusion services, pharmacy and physician leadership. Tiffany Kurtz, MSN, RN, OCN, NE-BC, RN Manager of Outpatient Oncology,



DR. GREGORY MANSON



TIFFANY KURTZ

was instrumental in turning the vision into practice by helping develop the operational policy, coordinating staff education and supporting the workflows needed for safe delivery. Dr. Gregory Manson also played a key physician leadership role in guiding implementation and helping bring this important treatment option to Summa Health patients.

Since implementation, five patients have initiated maintenance BiTE therapy at Summa Health. The program has also expanded to all four Summa Health infusion centers, further improving convenience and access for patients across the region. This initiative reflects Summa Health's commitment to removing barriers, responding to patient needs and bringing innovative cancer treatment closer to home. It also positions the Cancer Institute for future growth as newer indications and approvals continue to expand the role of BiTE therapies in cancer care.

As these therapies continue to advance, Summa Health is well positioned to care for more patients locally and to expand access to leading-edge cancer treatment in the communities it serves.

The event also reinforced the importance of ongoing, routine care. Cancer prevention is not a single appointment or one-time decision; it is a lifelong commitment that includes understanding personal risk, completing age-appropriate screenings, making healthy lifestyle choices and staying connected with a trusted healthcare provider.

As part of Summa Health's broader oncology program, community screening and prevention efforts support our mission to provide proactive, accessible care close to home. By meeting people where they are and creating opportunities for education, connection and early detection, Summa Health is helping individuals take meaningful steps to protect their health and improve outcomes.



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