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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

**Manuscript NO:** 65147

**Manuscript Type:** OPINION REVIEW

**Borderline resectable pancreatic cancer: Certainties and controversies**

Nappo G *et al.* Borderline resectable pancreatic cancer

Gennaro Nappo, Greta Donisi, Alessandro Zerbi

### Abstract

Borderline resectable (BR) pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is currently a well-recognized entity, characterized by some specific anatomic, biological and conditional features: it includes patients with a stage of disease intermediate between the resectable and the locally advanced ones. The term BR identifies a tumour with an aggressive biological behaviour, on which a neoadjuvant approach instead of upfront surgery one should be preferred. in order to obtain a radical resection (R0) and to avoid



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Author: Mark S. Talamonti      Publish Year: 2016

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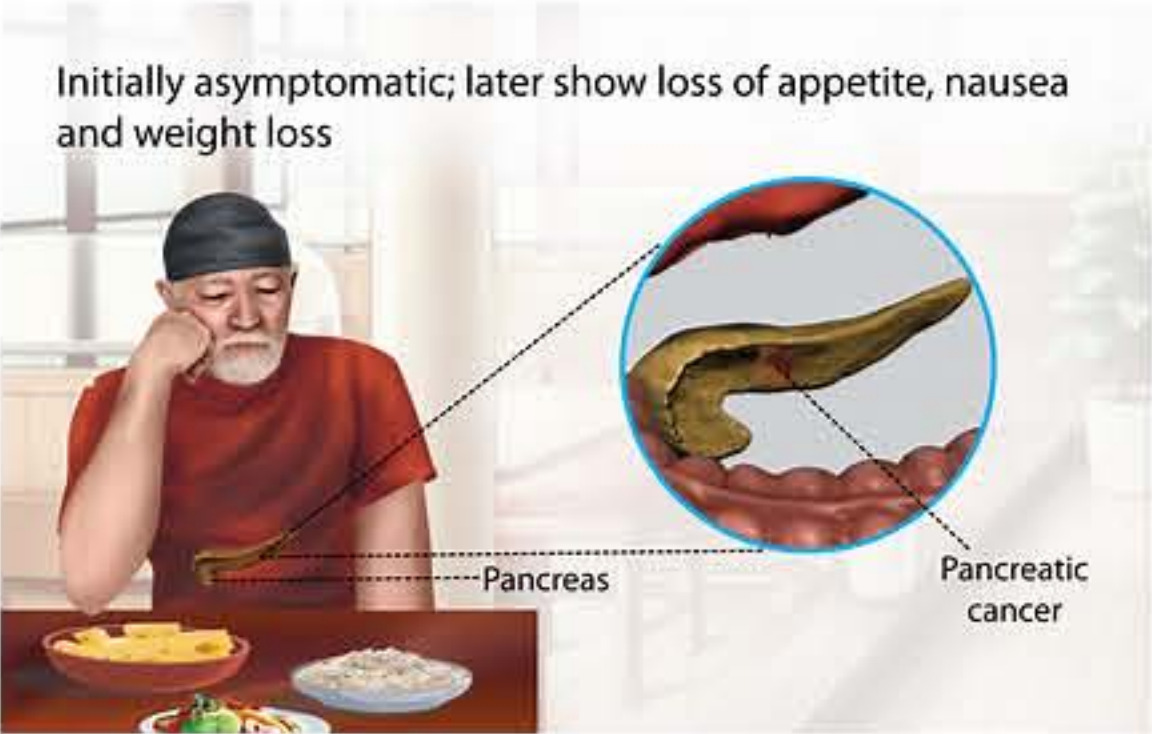
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## Pancreatic Cancer

Medical Condition



Cancer of pancreas, an organ which is behind the lower part of the stomach.

- 📅 Rare (Fewer than 200,000 cases per year in US)
- 🧪 Often requires lab test or imaging
- 👨🏻‍⚕️ Treatment from medical professional advised
- 🕒 Can last several months or years

The exact cause of pancreatic cancer is unknown. Risk factors include diabetes, chronic pancreatitis and stomach ulcer. In the early stage, it is asymptomatic. Common symptoms at later stages are weight loss and abdominal pain. Treatment includes surgeries and other therapies.

### Symptoms

Early stage of pancreatic cancer may be asymptomatic. Symptoms will show up only when the disease progresses and include:

- Digestive problems, including abnormal stools, nausea or vomiting
- Pain in the upper abdomen and back
- Loss of appetite
- Sudden weight loss
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes)
- Very high sugar levels in diabetic patients

### Treatments

Treatment depends on the location of tumor, age and general health. Treatment includes surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

#### Medication

- Chemotherapy: Drugs, either taken orally or through injection, kills the cancer cells. In advanced stages, it only helps control growth of cancer cells.  
5-Fluorouracil · Capecitabine · Irinotecan · Oxaliplatin

**Medical procedures:** Tumor excision · Distal pancreatectomy · Total pancreatectomy

**Therapies:** Radiation therapy

### Causes

The exact cause of pancreatic cancer is usually not known. Mutations in the DNA of pancreatic cells can cause the cells to multiply uncontrollably and is one of the reasons for development of cancer.

In rare cases, it starts within pancreatic ducts. Pancreatic adenocarcinoma, pancreatic endocrine cancer and pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors are some forms of the cancer.

Risk factors for pancreatic cancer are:

- Smoking
- Over weight - Obesity
- Heavy alcohol consumption
- Diabetes
- Working with pesticides and chemicals
- Chronic inflammation of the pancreas
- Liver damage

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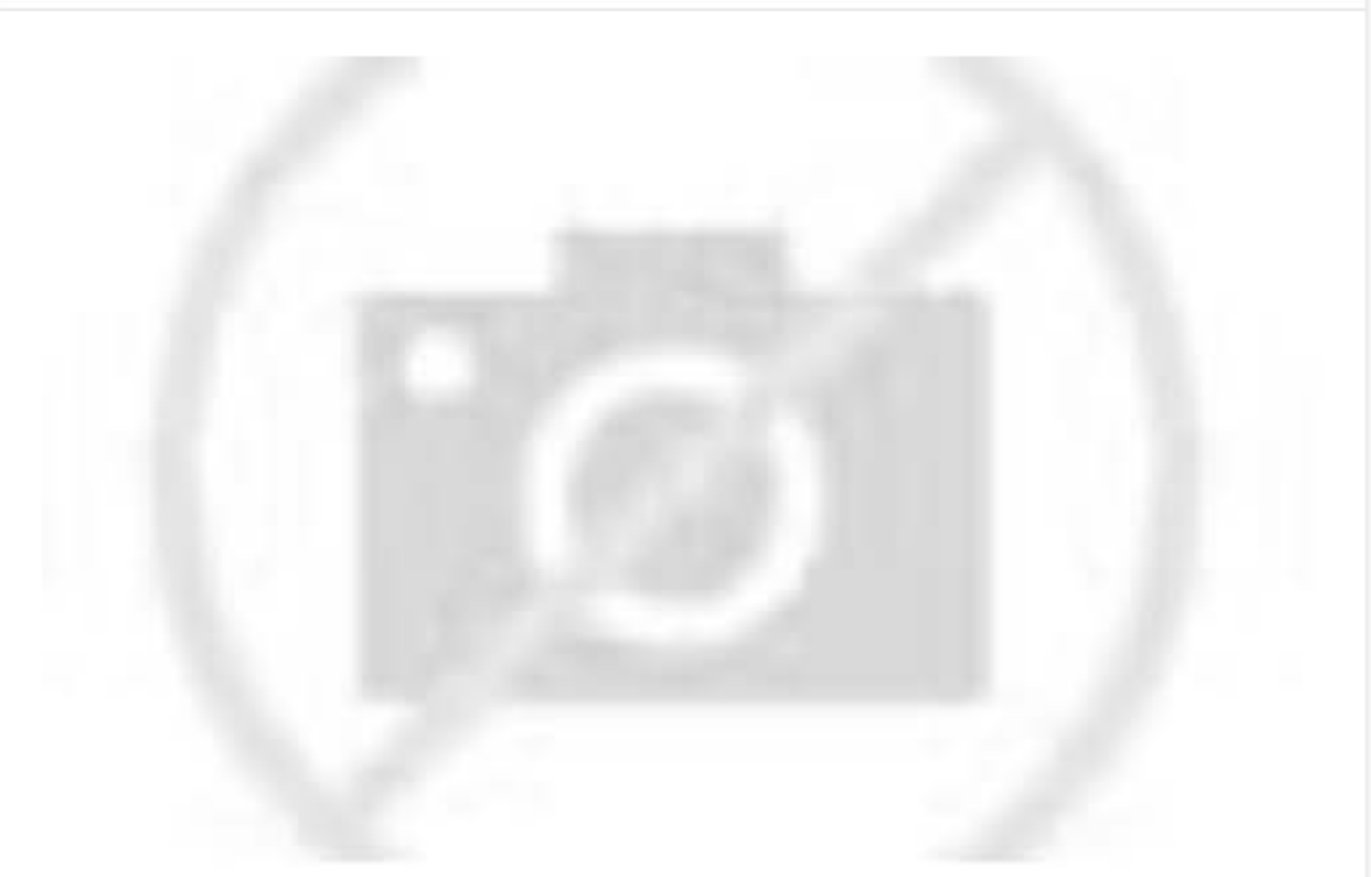
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Pancreatic Cancer

Medical Condition



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- Rare (Fewer than 200,000 cases per year in US)
- Often requires lab test or imaging
- Treatable by a medical professional
- Can last several months or years

The exact cause of pancreatic cancer is unknown. Risk factors include diabetes, chronic pancreatitis and stomach ulcer. In the early stage, it is asymptomatic. Common symptoms at later stages are weight loss and abdominal pain. Treatment depends on the location of tumor, age and general health. Treatment includes surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

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