

# Pancreas Care Center



The Pancreas Care Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is one of only a few dedicated pediatric pancreas centers in the country. It is recognized as a National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) Center of Excellence. Our multidisciplinary team has extensive experience in caring for children with pancreatic disorders. This is a distinct advantage, since these disorders are often misunderstood and can be difficult to diagnose.

The Center offers highly specialized care that is not widely available. Cincinnati Children's is one of only a few institutions in the United States providing total pancreatectomy with islet autotransplantation (TPIAT) for children as young as toddler age, when indicated.

## CONTACT US

For patient referrals and non-urgent consultation during business hours, contact the program directly at:

Phone: **513-803-2123**  
[pancreas@cchmc.org](mailto:pancreas@cchmc.org)

[www.cincinnatichildrens.org/pancreas](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/pancreas)

For more information about our genetic testing program for pancreas diseases:

[www.cincinnatichildrens.org/pancreas-genes](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/pancreas-genes)



Cincinnati Children's is ranked #1 in Gastroenterology & GI Surgery and #3 in the nation among Honor Roll hospitals.

## CONDITIONS TREATED

- Acute, recurrent and chronic pancreatitis
- Autoimmune pancreatitis
- Pancreatic congenital anomalies including annular pancreas and pancreas divisum
- Pancreatic cysts and pseudocysts/pancreatic necrosis
- Pancreatic exocrine insufficiency in patients with disorders that cause insufficiency, such as cystic fibrosis and Shwachman-Diamond syndrome
- Pancreatic masses or tumors, including pancreatoblastomas, neuroendocrine tumors, and masses associated with Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome
- Pancreatic trauma
- Congenital hyperinsulinism

Our clinical team is led by pediatric gastroenterologists with pancreatology expertise and pediatric surgeons, and also includes physicians specializing in pain management, endocrinology, oncology and radiology. Our experts work closely with the center's genetics counselor, pain psychologist, nurses, nurse practitioners, registered dietitian and social workers to ensure that patient outcomes and family-centered care are met at the highest standards possible.

## COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS

The Pancreas Care Center, in coordination with Cincinnati Children's Laboratory of Genetics and Genomics, is one of a few in the United States offering a comprehensive genetics testing program to analyze 10 genes associated with pancreatitis and pancreatic insufficiency. These highly-sensitive tests, combined with our clinical expertise, enable us to develop a thoughtful, personalized treatment plan for each patient that may include medications, nutritional therapy and surgical interventions, as well as pain management. Our advanced endoscopists have broad experience in caring for children, which includes performing endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and endoscopic ultrasound (EUS). They are experts in diagnosing and treating pancreatic complications such as narrowing, irregularities or blockages in the ducts, as well as draining fluid collections that can manifest as a complication of the disease.



## RESEARCH THAT ENHANCES CLINICAL CARE

Cincinnati Children's participates in national and international research consortia to better understand the underlying causes of pediatric pancreatic disorders, and to advance the understanding of TPIAT to improve quality of life for patients. We maintain a patient registry and use the data to identify pathways to standardize patient care protocols in order to minimize exposure to opioids, shorten hospital stays and improve clinical outcomes.

For urgent issues, or to speak with the specialist on call 24/7, call the Physician Priority Link® at 1-888-987-7997.

For international inquiries, call +1-513-636-3100 or email [international@cchmc.org](mailto:international@cchmc.org).

## TOTAL PANCREATECTOMY WITH ISLET AUTOTRANSPLANTATION (TPIAT)

TPIAT may be recommended for patients with severe, debilitating pain caused by chronic or acute recurrent pancreatitis. The surgeon resects the pancreas together with the duodenum and spleen, and reconstructs the gastrointestinal tract and bile duct. Islets are isolated from the pancreas, then injected into the liver via the portal vein. The primary goal of TPIAT is to provide pain relief and restore quality of life. The secondary goal is to provide adequate blood glucose control by autotransplanting the islets isolated from the pancreas.

The majority of children experience significant pain relief and an improvement in their quality of life following TPIAT. Children typically return to normal daily functions that they were unable to achieve before surgery—within the first few months following TPIAT, they return to school, social activities and even sports.

In general, children experience favorable glucose control outcomes after TPIAT. Overall, 40% of children wean off of all exogenous insulin and are insulin independent at 2 years after TPIAT, and an additional 33% of children have very good graft function and require only very low amounts of exogenous insulin. Younger children have the best outcomes, with 50% of children under 12 years old achieving insulin independence after TPIAT and 67% of children under 8 years old achieving insulin independence.

Our experienced team performs a high volume of TPIAT procedures for children, compared to other centers, nationally. Patients benefit from local islet isolation facility within our Children's Hospital. Local islet isolation mitigates the risk of distant transport of the pancreas and islets. It also allows rapid turnaround time and, therefore, shorter surgeries.

## TREATMENT TEAM—PANCREAS CARE CENTER

### Gastroenterology

Maisam Abu-Ei-Haija, MD, MS

*Medical Director*

David Vitale, MD

### Surgery

Alexander Bondoc, MD

Juan Gurria MD, MSc

Greg Tiao, MD

### Endocrinology

Deborah Elder, MD

*Director of Endocrinology*

Siobhan Tellez, APRN, CPNP-PC

### Pain Management

Kenneth Goldschneider, MD

Alexandra Szabova, MD

### Radiology

Andrew Trout, MD

### Oncology

James Geller, MD

### Nursing

Rachel Ellison, DNP, RN, CPN

*Program Manager*

Elizabeth Hacker, BSN, RN, CPN

Colleen Lowe, MSN, APRN, CNP, FNP-BC

S. Mark Ogg MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Angela Turner, MSN, RN, CPN

### Behavioral Medicine/Clinical Psychology

Anne M. Lynch-Jordan, PhD

Kristin Loiselle Rich, PhD

### Social Work

Lisa Belle, MSW, LSW

Celia Kelly MSW, LSW

### Program Coordinator

Lynn Chalfant