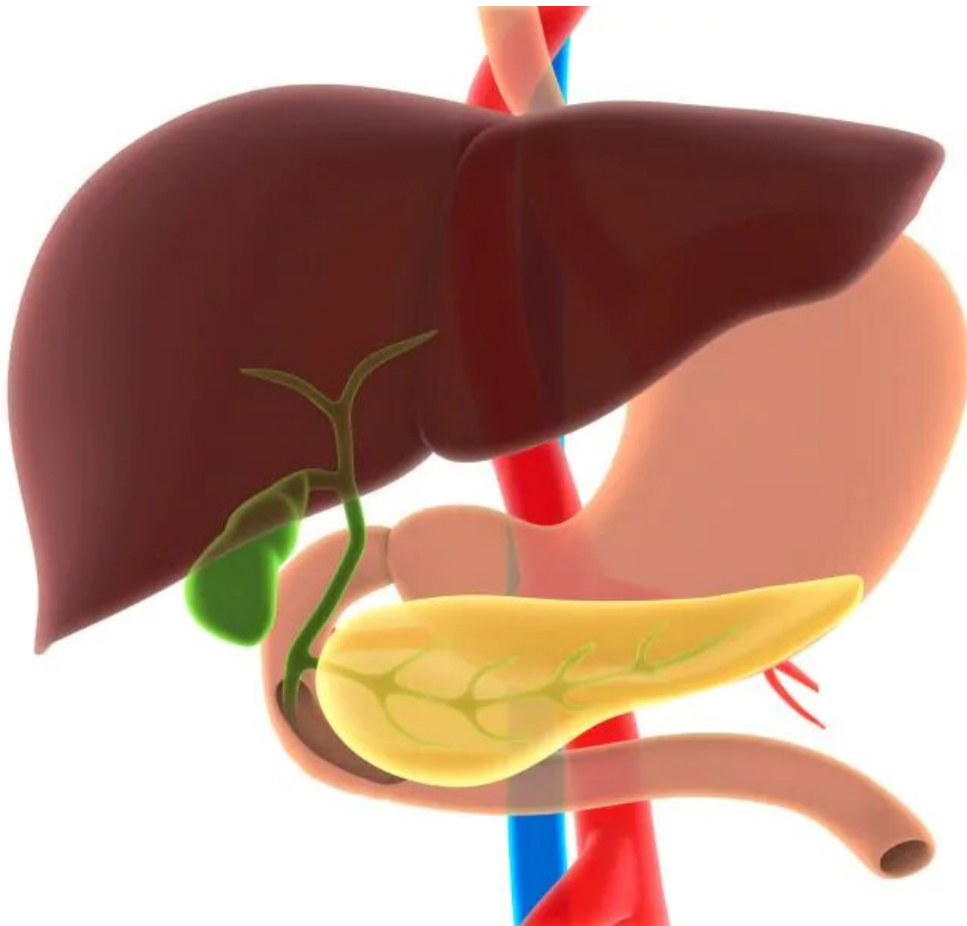


# Cancer consultation low in noncurable pancreatic adenocarcinoma

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(HealthDay)—Many patients with noncurable pancreatic

adenocarcinoma do not have a specialized cancer consultation and most do not receive cancer-directed therapy, according to a study published online May 27 in *CMAJ*, the journal of the Canadian Medical Association.

Michail N. Mavros, M.D., from the University of Toronto, and colleagues conducted a population-based analysis of noncurative pancreatic adenocarcinoma diagnosed during 2005 to 2016. The authors examined the use of specialized cancer consultation with hepato-pancreatico-biliary surgery and medical and [radiation oncology](#).

The researchers found that 64.9, 35.1, and 24.7 percent of the 10,880 [patients](#) had a consultation with specialists in [medical oncology](#), hepato-pancreatico-biliary surgery, and radiation oncology, respectively. No [sociodemographic characteristics](#) were associated with the likelihood of medical oncology consultation. Overall, 4,144 patients received cancer-directed therapy, representing 38.1 and 58.6 percent of all patients and of those who consulted with medical oncology, respectively. A total of 44.4 percent of the 6,737 patients not receiving cancer-directed therapy had a consultation with medical oncology. Independent associations were observed for older age and lowest income quintile with a lower likelihood of cancer-directed therapy. The likelihood of cancer-directed therapy was significantly higher for first specialized cancer consultation with medical or radiation oncology versus surgery.

"We have highlighted the potential under-assessment of patients with noncurative pancreatic adenocarcinoma that can serve as the rationale and foundation for [future research](#), and the design of pathways and policies to optimize the delivery of equitable patient-centered care," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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