

New Patient Guide



Thank you for entrusting your care to Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute (FCS).

Because we are at the forefront of science and research, we provide our patients with access to the most advanced treatment options available. Our highly trained and dedicated physicians, clinicians and team members will tailor a personalized plan of care designed for your unique needs and genetic profile.

From your first appointment to your last round of targeted treatment, your dedicated FCS team will provide expert guidance and support. Most, if not all, of the treatments and support services you will need are available from a single location, close to home.

Our relationship with our patients is at the heart of everything we do. This guide will provide you with important information about your care at FCS. We encourage you to read through it carefully. Please talk with your care team any time you have questions or concerns.

Florida Cancer Specialists will be by your side — through every step of your journey. It is our privilege and our passion to serve you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MD'.

Michael Diaz, MD
President & Managing Physician



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NHW'.

Nathan H. Walcker
Chief Executive Officer

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Welcome

Whether you have come to FCS for primary treatment or a second opinion, our pledge is to provide the best possible experience and outcome. It's only natural for you and your family to have questions about your diagnosis and treatment options. Our goal is to provide as many answers as possible and the support you need at every step of your cancer journey.

Your First Visit

During your initial office visit, you will have the opportunity for an open conversation with your FCS physician/oncologist. You will learn about your diagnosis, the treatment options available, what they involve and how our multi-disciplined, experienced team will support you throughout the entire process. A nurse practitioner or physician assistant (PA) may also work closely with your physician in providing your care.

We encourage you to write down all your questions ahead of time and, if possible, bring a family member or friend with you to your office visits. With a second pair of eyes and ears, you'll be less likely to forget something important and you can focus on your treatment. We will work together through the decision-making process to develop a personalized plan of care that is optimal for your unique and individual needs.

When You Arrive

We ask that you arrive on time for your scheduled appointments; arrive early to fill out a medical history form if you have not previously. Upon arrival, please check in with our Patient Services Specialist (PSS) at the front desk. During the check-in process, you will be asked to confirm your name and date of birth, along with any updates to your insurance or contact information. If you have any changes in your medical history, please be sure to let your nurse or doctor know when you arrive.

Scheduling Appointments

To schedule appointments, please call the main office number at your clinic location between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and an FCS team member will be pleased to

help you. If you need to cancel or reschedule, we ask that you notify us at least 24 hours in advance. A listing of our clinic locations and telephone numbers can be found online at: **FLCancer.com/Locations**.

If you need to reach a physician before or after office hours, please call the office and the on-call physician answering service will handle your call accordingly.

Treatment Options

There are many different forms of cancer and multiple treatment options. After determining what your options are and reviewing both the benefits and risks, you and your FCS doctor and health care team will choose a treatment plan that is best for you. Our goal is to provide treatment while helping you to continue your normal life and schedule as much as possible.

Of course, patient reactions to treatment may vary. The best way to prepare is to be informed, so we will address questions about side effects, treatment frequency and medications. We will also talk about any possible impact on your normal work or life schedule. With treatments and support services available from a single location close to home, FCS makes it easier for patients to continue with their daily activities.

Chemotherapy

One of the most common and effective treatments for cancer is the infusion of anti-cancer medications with an intravenous (IV) solution, known as chemotherapy or "chemo." Since every human body is different, administration and results of the infusions are also unique to each patient. Our physicians and nursing staff monitor each patient's progress, adjusting as needed to ensure optimal effectiveness.

Treatment rooms are designed with your comfort in mind. Each room includes specially designed lounge chairs, and our expert nursing teams provide the highest level of oncological care.

Our model of community-based oncology enables patients to go about their daily lives without lengthy or disruptive travel to receive chemotherapy or other treatments.

For more information about chemotherapy, visit our FCS website at: **FLCancer.com/Chemotherapy**.

Oral Oncolytics

Oral medications are becoming more popular as the treatment of cancer advances. Approximately 35% of all cancer medications are now in a pill form and may be recommended to you as a treatment option. This treatment option may not require frequent or extended visits, as the medication is provided at home. Therefore, it is essential that you follow your physician's orders on when to take the medication as well as storage and handling instructions. It is recommended that you stay in close contact with your FCS team to report any side effects or concerns about your ability to take any of these medications. If you can fill your prescription through our in-house pharmacy, Rx To Go, our oncology trained pharmacists will collaborate with your physician and assist in the management of your oral treatment.

For more information about our in-house specialty pharmacy, visit our website at: **FLCancer.com/RxToGo**.

Radiation Oncology

Radiation therapy is an important weapon in our battle against cancer. Depending on the type and extent of cancer, radiation therapy can be used alone or in combination with other treatments, such as surgery or chemotherapy. FCS strives to invest in and provide the latest technologies and techniques available.

Radiation therapy effectively treats cancer by using high-energy beams of radiation to pinpoint and destroy cancerous cells. Although radiation therapy is like an x-ray, the dose of radiation in cancer treatment is much stronger and is given over a longer period. Various forms of radiation therapy

are available; the two basic types are external beam radiation and internal radiation, or brachytherapy.

If your physician determines that radiation therapy should be a part of your treatment plan and it is not offered by FCS within your local area, you will be referred to one of our strategic partners for treatment. Your physician will discuss whether radiation therapy is right for you.

For more information about radiation therapy, visit our FCS website at:

FLCancer.com/RadiationOncology.

Targeted Therapies

With certain types of cancer, FCS medical oncologists are using targeted therapies, some of the most exciting and promising advances in cancer treatment. Targeted therapies block certain proteins and other pathways that signal cancer cells to grow. These advanced treatments, which are sometimes given in pill form, are designed to destroy cancer cells, leaving healthy cells unharmed. Patients who receive targeted therapies usually do not experience as many of the typical side effects of chemotherapy, such as hair loss and low blood count.

Other Infusions

FCS partners with both primary and specialty physicians in the communities we serve to offer state-of-the-art infusion therapy for non-cancer patients. Under the supervision of our Board-certified physicians, we have dedicated teams of registered nurses and pharmacy technicians who specialize in personalized care when administering these types of medications.

Our FCS Physician Assistants (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (ARNP) assist in your healthcare. These licensed professionals are all nationally certified and state licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of and in collaboration with a physician. They will play a critical role in your treatment planning, monitoring and recovery. The PA or ARNP is able to perform examinations and procedures, order treatments,

diagnose diseases, prescribe medication, order and interpret diagnostic testing, and make any needed referrals.

The Role of Oncology Nurses

Our highly qualified oncology nurses work closely with our physicians in the management of chemotherapy treatments and monitoring of patients' physical and emotional well-being. Oncology nurses have specialized knowledge and experience that enables them to provide the highest quality care to patients undergoing complex cancer treatments. In addition, these dedicated and trusted professionals are a source of education and support to patients and caregivers and can make recommendations during treatments to prevent complications and decrease side effects.

Knowing what to expect helps relieve apprehension. We encourage you to ask questions and discuss any concerns with our staff.

Clinical Trials Provide New Treatment Options



One of the greatest advantages FCS provides for our patients is the opportunity to benefit from ongoing medical research through clinical trials. Clinical trials are studies that evaluate the effectiveness of drugs or treatment routines. Participants may receive promising new treatments, and if the trial is successful, participants are the first to benefit.

As a strategic partner with the Sarah Cannon Research Institute, one of the largest and most respected clinical trial organizations in the United States, we have participated for many years in numerous clinical research studies involving investigational drugs, treatment methods and therapy combinations. Our physicians and staff

are extremely proud of their endeavors to bring the latest clinical studies and results of research to our patients in the search for better cancer treatment and, eventually, more cures.

Patients seeking the most advanced cancer care available no longer have to travel to large academic institutions, often far from home. With many active trials underway, we are investigating new treatments for all types of cancer, including breast, lung, melanoma, multiple myeloma, ovarian and prostate cancers.

Talk to your doctor to discuss whether a clinical trial might be right for you and to learn about your options.

Rapid advances in targeted therapies and molecular biology are leading to new drug innovations that are revolutionizing the field of oncology. Through its dedication to working on ground-breaking research, we are committed to be a part of these discoveries.

While there is no guarantee that any treatment will be successful, clinical trials give patients the opportunity to participate in approved and exploratory therapies without long distance travel.

For more information about clinical trials at FCS, visit our website at: FLCancer.com/ClinicalTrials.



PHASE 1 TRIALS PROGRAM

Drug Development Unit (DDU)

As a strategic research site with Sarah Cannon Research Institute, FCS conducts clinical trials research at multiple sites throughout the state of Florida, including at our Drug Development Units (DDU), which are dedicated exclusively to Phase I Clinical Trials.

Since the first FCS DDU was established in 2011, the Phase 1 Trials program has grown exponentially to become one of the

YOUR FCS CARE TEAM

Oncology refers to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Your FCS doctor, an oncologist, will be your main health care provider throughout the course of your cancer treatment. Different types of doctors often work together to create a patient's overall care plan, which may consist of different types of treatments. As an FCS patient, the following types of physicians may be involved with your care:

Medical Oncologist

Treats cancer using chemotherapy or other medications

Hematologist Oncologist

Diagnoses and treats blood disorders and problems with blood cells, platelets, blood vessels, bone marrow, lymph nodes, spleen and the blood clotting process

Radiation Oncologist

Treats cancer using radiation therapy

Gynecologic Oncologist

Specializes in treating gynecologic cancers, including cervical, ovarian and uterine cancers

Hospitalist

Partners with your oncologist to manage your care if you are admitted to a hospital

Urologist

Specializes in medical and surgical treatment of the kidneys, bladder, adrenal glands, urethra, male reproductive organs and male fertility

Your care teams will also include a variety of other highly skilled health care professionals, including diagnostic radiologists, pathologists, pharmacists, oncology nurses, social workers and dietitians.

leading clinical research programs in the nation, rivaling most large academic medical centers.

Chemotherapy Infusion Services

Chemotherapy simply means the use of infused medications to fight cancer. The medicine, either infused over an extended period of time or provided via a short injection, works by killing cancer cells. Some of the chemotherapy medications only target and kill cancer cells, but some chemotherapy may also affect normal cells. As a result of the medication affecting your normal cells, side effects may occur. While not all patients experience the same side effects to chemotherapy, possible common side effects are nausea, hair loss, blood count changes, fever, digestive interruptions, neuropathy and changes in appetite. Our clinical team will cover any potential side effects that will be anticipated specifically for you if you elect to receive chemotherapy.

TIPS FOR CHEMOTHERAPY

What to Bring to Your Treatment

Some suggestions for your comfort:

Warmth & Relaxation – Be sure to wear clothing that is comfortable and doesn't bind. Many patients find that bringing a sweater, favorite blanket, a pair of socks or even a hat not only keeps them from feeling chilly, but also provides the comfort of something familiar from home.

Snacks & Beverages – Light snacks and juice may be available, and you can also bring a sandwich, favorite snack or beverage in case your treatment lasts longer than expected. Please remember that foods with strong odors may be unsettling to others receiving treatment.

Your Favorite Music, Headphones or Electronic Device – Many patients enjoy listening to their favorite music during treatment. We encourage you to bring headphones, a laptop, iPad® or any other electronic device, as complimentary Wi-Fi is accessible. In addition, some locations

offer iPads® or individual DVD players that may be used by patients during chemotherapy. Most locations are also equipped with televisions.

Magazines, Books & Games – You are welcome to borrow reading material from our large selection of donated books. We gratefully accept books, magazines and games that you may wish to donate to our library for others to enjoy.

Patient Education

We believe that well-informed patients have more positive attitudes and are less apprehensive.

We provide pre-treatment patient education classes that focus on three goals:

- Giving you practical information to ensure smooth and comfortable treatment sessions
- Teaching you about typical side effects and preparing you to deal with them
- Helping you know when your symptoms are typical side effects and when you should seek immediate medical attention

We also provide information about how to handle ongoing questions, what to bring with you to treatments and who to contact in an emergency. This educational session will be of significant benefit to you and your family.

Other Considerations

Make arrangements for a ride home in advance. Check with your physician or nurse about the type of infusion treatment you will be receiving. Many of the pre-medications can make you sleepy. If you are receiving one of these medications, make sure someone is available to drive you home.

Fragrances – Many patients receiving chemotherapy may experience extreme sensitivity to fragrances. To accommodate those who are chemically sensitive to certain fragrances and other scented products, please refrain from using perfumes and scented lotions on the day(s) you come into the office

for treatment. All guests of patients should adhere to this consideration as well.

Cell phones – During your visit for infusion services, we kindly ask you to limit your use of cell phones for phone calls.

Bring all medications you are scheduled to take – We suggest you put together a travel bag/container to bring your daily medications—including those for pain—with you for chemo sessions.

Guests – Each patient may bring one guest to their infusion appointment. Guests may be asked to leave the treatment room if space for patients becomes an issue. For the safety of patients and children alike, we respectfully request that you do not bring young children with you to treatment.

Managing Side Effects

Nausea – While nausea is one of the most common side effects to chemotherapy treatment, there are many options to help prevent and offset this uncomfortable result associated with your treatment. You may receive a “premedication” or a pill that will help manage your nausea. Please consult your oncologist or nurse on various options to stay comfortable during your treatment.

Hair loss – Many chemotherapy treatments cause hair loss. Since the medication is attacking cells, sometimes they will also kill the cells that promote hair growth. The loss of hair is almost always temporary and hair growth will resume upon completion of your therapy. If hair loss is expected, this will be a discussion with you during your patient education session with an oncology nurse that will also provide information on the duration of this side effect. The DigniCap® scalp cooling system is available to patients in select designated FCS locations to help diminish hair loss from chemotherapy.

Fever – A fever can be a serious concern when undergoing chemotherapy. You may be asked to closely monitor your temperature and contact

your physician upon immediate recognition of an elevated body temperature.

Diagnostic Services

Laboratory Services

Each FCS location provides COLA (Clinical Outpatient Laboratory Accreditation) accredited, state and federally licensed in-house laboratories for all routine blood work. We perform all standard blood work on site. Other laboratory tests, including chemistries and tumor markers, are performed at our central lab facility located in Fort Myers. Results for all laboratory tests performed in-house are usually available in our electronic medical record system within 24 hours.

Pathology Services

The FCS Pathology Lab is a state-of-the-art facility located in Fort Myers. The purpose of the pathology laboratory is to determine if a malignancy (cancer tumor) is present and if so, what type of malignancy is present. Pathology tests assist your physician in determining the treatment to best suit your individual case. Additionally, pathologists are in frequent contact with your oncologist, facilitating the expedited reporting of clinically important information, which results in faster and more personalized patient care.

Our Pathology Lab and team of highly trained pathologists and lab technicians can provide both the technical analysis and the professional evaluation of all aspects of a comprehensive hematopathology report; this includes histology/morphology, immunohistochemistry (IHC), in situ hybridization (ISH), flow cytometry, fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH), cytogenetics, PAM50 and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). We specifically perform the flow cytometry, histology/morphology, IHC, ISH, FISH and PNH (paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria) testing.

We strive to provide you with the latest diagnostic services, so our list of available pathology and laboratory testing is constantly evolving to include the latest cutting-edge advancements. All pathology services are accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), an internationally renowned program that recognizes laboratories that go well beyond regulatory compliance in achieving the highest standards of excellence to positively impact patient care and safety.

Genetic Testing & Counseling

Knowing risk factors for hereditary cancers early can be lifesaving, allowing for preventive measures that can preempt or prevent disease. We continue to expand our robust in-house testing capabilities, so that we can provide our patients with fast and accurate diagnosis and treatment planning, which leads to more positive outcomes.

Supported by the latest technology, our specially trained genetics specialist is able to identify those who are at high-risk, refer them for consultation and genetic testing, discuss results in depth and, as needed, ensure they get timely preventive services to reduce future risk. For genetic counseling inquiries, email:

GeneticCounselor@FLCancer.com.

Our state-of-the-art FCS Laboratory is equipped to provide next-generation sequencing (NGS) clinical testing on solid tumors and hematologic malignancies. NGS testing allows pathologists to detect mutations in hundreds of different genes simultaneously, thus giving a more unique understanding of each patient's individual diagnosis. This information can then be used to personalize therapy, increasing cure rates and extending lives.

Diagnostic Imaging

An important aspect of cancer diagnosis and treatment is diagnostic imaging, which provides a visual display of organs or tissues. We provide Computed Tomography (CT) scans, which use x-rays to create cross-sectional images of the body, and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans,

which utilize nuclear medicine imaging. Physicians use these scans to accurately diagnose and identify the stage of cancer, determine optimum treatment and assess patient responses to treatment.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our patients have access to the most advanced technologies that are available. In addition to the American College of Radiology accreditation, our scanners have the latest technologies to modify and track radiation doses per scan to ensure maximum patient safety.

For your convenience, we offer diagnostic tests at multiple FCS locations.

Services For You



For Oral Chemotherapy

Our in-house specialty oral oncology pharmacy, Rx To Go, specializes in delivering oral chemotherapy and other specialty medications to our patients throughout Florida. Approximately 35% of all cancer drugs are available in pill form, including the newer targeted therapies.

Although oral medications offer more convenience for patients, it is critical that these drugs be filled and delivered on a timely schedule and that patients are closely monitored to ensure compliance in taking their medications.

FCS In-House Pharmacy Advantages

There are several advantages for patients:

- FCS oncology pharmacists have real-time access to patient records and your physicians, so they can provide faster, superior service and guidance to assist you in understanding your medications.

- Oral cancer drugs are in stock and available to fill your prescription immediately.
- Medications can be delivered to patients' homes throughout Florida and in many other states.
- FCS pharmacy specialists are trained to aid with insurance qualifications and co-pays, making it easier to navigate paperwork and meet insurance requirements.

No matter where you live, if you are an FCS patient and you have been prescribed an oral cancer medication, you can sign up for Rx To Go and experience excellent support from our nationally-accredited in-house pharmacy.

For more information about our oral oncolytic pharmacy, visit our FCS website at: FLCancer.com/RxToGo.

Care Management

Care Management utilizes a team approach to help those patients who have qualified for a value-based care program navigate through all phases of treatment. Patients are assigned a care manager, an oncology nurse who will assist you in managing your physical, psychosocial and emotional needs. An individualized care plan will be created in collaboration with your providers and care team, and then your RN care manager will review the plan with you.

Your care manager will work with you and your physician to manage any symptoms you may experience and to ensure your comfort and quality of life. Your care manager is also available for emotional support and to act as a point of contact for you. Following treatment, a tailored plan of care will be developed to help you resume your busy life as much as possible.

For more information about Care Management at FCS, visit: FLCancer.com/CareManagement.

Behavioral Health Services

Mental health is just as important as physical well-being. The uncertainties and disruptions in our

lives caused by illness can trigger psychological or emotional distress. Our FCS Behavioral Health team is available to support you if you are experiencing stress, anxiety, insomnia or any other emotional difficulties.

We are able to offer a one-time supportive phone call free of charge or ongoing therapy services virtually to assist you at any time throughout your treatment. Therapy services are provided by the experienced and compassionate licensed professionals on our FCS Behavioral Health team, who can also suggest a variety of resources, including integrative therapies and mindfulness techniques, to help cope with stress and anxiety.

Call **(855) 327-6112** Monday thru Friday to be connected to a therapist. An operator will inform the Behavioral Health team of your request, and you will receive a call from a therapist by 7 p.m. that day.

Nutrition Counseling

Balanced nutrition is a very important part of cancer treatment. Nutrition counseling is offered in nearly all FCS clinics and virtual classes are conducted via Zoom meeting bimonthly.

For more information, visit our FCS website at: FLCancer.com/CareManagement.

Palliative Care

Patients living with cancer or other serious illness and their caregivers face many choices and challenges.

Our FCS palliative care specialists understand cancer treatment. They can provide recommendations to help manage pain and other symptoms and assist with decisions about other patient needs. Working in cooperation with your FCS physician and other members of your care team, they assist in making decisions based on the unique needs and goals of each patient and family.

Talk with your FCS physician or care team if you are interested in Palliative Care services.

Insurance & Patient Financial Navigation

FCS is committed to being a supportive resource for our patients. All FCS offices have a dedicated patient financial navigator who will be your point of contact for any insurance related questions while you are in the office. You will meet with a patient financial navigator during one of your initial visits and at any time that you may have questions about your account or insurance coverage. A patient financial navigator will review your insurance benefits and financial obligations and assist you with any questions you may have regarding your account at any time during your visits.

Our business office team in Fort Myers will verify your insurance coverage, obtain authorizations, file your insurance claims and work directly with your insurance company. Contact our business office at **(877) 327-2228 and press Option 1** should any issues arise related to your insurance or visit **FLCancer.com/Contact** and click on "Billing Inquiries."

If you are concerned about your ability to make a payment or have questions about your out-of-pocket expenses, our patient financial navigators can discuss payment options or patient assistance programs. They can also provide information regarding various foundations and funding that might be available. You may also contact our FCS Patient Financial Assistance department at **(877) 327-2228 and press Option 1** to review any potential funding options for your care.

Financial Policies

For your convenience, we will verify your insurance eligibility and benefits at the time of services or in advance of your appointment. Your insurance carrier will inform us of your financial responsibility for the care provided by FCS. In accordance with your insurance guidelines, we collect any co-payment, deductible or co-insurance amounts at the time of service.

If your insurance plan provides for direct reimbursement to our office, we are happy to file insurance claims on your behalf. We will make our best efforts to ensure that we have appropriately estimated your out of pocket responsibility for the first time; however, your insurance Explanation of Benefits (EOB) will be the final determination of your out of pocket responsibility.

Limited Nurse Visits

During your visits to FCS, you may meet with a nurse who will evaluate your condition on behalf of the physician to provide you with the best care. Please be aware that your insurance plan may initiate a financial responsibility when this charge is billed. It will be your responsibility to pay for any charges applied by your insurance company.

Diagnostic Testing

As part of your care at FCS, your physician may order additional diagnostic testing that will assist in monitoring your health. Please be aware that your insurance plan may initiate a financial responsibility when charges are billed for diagnostic testing, whether through a non-FCS diagnostic partner or FCS's diagnostic services. Any information about the type of tests your physician is ordering can be discussed with your physician.

Waivers

During your visit with your physician, you may make a choice to undergo a treatment that may not be covered by your insurance. If this situation occurs, a patient financial navigator will discuss this with you in advance of your treatment to review your options. In accordance with insurance guidelines, you will be asked to sign a waiver, so that FCS has written confirmation of your decision. A waiver is not required for all treatment choices and your patient financial navigator will go over this in detail if your situation requires a waiver.

Electronic Medical Records (EMR)

Our Electronic Medical Records system houses the details of your medical history, treatment plan, medications, lab results and more. This puts your entire medical team, local and remote, on the same page about your treatment plan and case history. The EMR enables your medical team to have access to your records 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide optimum care. Additionally, we offer a physician portal that connects all your doctors to ensure that you receive coordinated care.

To view or download a copy of the FCS Privacy Policy, please visit: FLCancer.com/PrivacyPractices.

CareSpace

CareSpace offers simple and convenient online access to your personal health record at any time from any location with internet access.

By signing into your secure personal account, you can:

- Review and keep track of appointments, test results and other important medical information
- View test results from your lab, pathology and radiology reports
- Communicate with your FCS health care team
- Download and share your health care information with other health care providers

CareSpace is also helpful in keeping extended family members informed about your treatment – plus, you can log in from any computer or mobile device 24/7. With this first-of-its-kind online tool, connecting to your personal health information is easy and secure. Since CareSpace is certified on the latest security standards, your information will stay private and secure. Access is only permitted to authorized users who have been verified through a registration process.

SUPPORT FOR CANCER PATIENTS



The demands of cancer treatment can often result in financial hardship.

Florida Cancer Specialists (FCS) Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, provides non-medical financial assistance to adults undergoing cancer treatment in Florida. We help pay for essential expenses, such as rent or mortgage, utility bills and car payments, so patients can focus on what really matters – fighting cancer.

Assistance is available to help pay for:

- Rent or mortgage
- Utility bills (water, gas, electric)
- Phone
- Car payment or car insurance

To qualify, patients must be:

- Age 18 or older
- Current Florida resident
- Actively undergoing cancer treatment or within 90 days of final treatment
- Receiving treatment from a Florida oncologist
- Have annual household income at or below 200% of national poverty guidelines
- Have less than \$5,000 in liquid assets

How You Can Help

The FCS Foundation accepts financial contributions of any amount.

All overhead expenses required to operate the Foundation are paid for by the physicians of Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute – so that 100% of your donation will go directly to help those in need.

For more information or to apply for assistance, visit FCSF.org or call **(941) 677-7181**.

Glossary Of Terms

Acute – Refers to symptoms that start and worsen quickly but do not last over a long time.

Antibody – An antigen-specific receptor, also called an immunoglobulin, made by B-lymphocytes. Antibodies are a critical component of the immune system that circulate in the blood and bind to foreign antigens and tumor cells, marking them for destruction by immune cells.

Antiemetic – Also known as anti-nausea medication, an antiemetic is a drug that relieves nausea and vomiting.

Benign – Indicates a non-cancerous condition, tumor or growth that does not spread to other parts of the body, nor change or destroy nearby tissue.

Biopsy – Removal of a small tissue sample from an organ or other part of the body to determine the presence of disease.

Bone marrow – The soft, spongy tissue found in the center of large bones where blood cells are formed.

Cancer – Cancer occurs when cells in a particular part of the body begin to grow out of control. Cancer cells, also called malignant cells, can invade other tissues and form new tumors.

Cells – The basic units that make up the human body.

Complete Blood Count (CBC) – A test that measures the number of white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets, as well as the fraction of the blood composed of red blood cells and the total amount of hemoglobin in the blood.

CT Scan – A series of detailed pictures of areas inside the body taken from different angles. The pictures are created by a computer linked to an x-ray machine. Also called CAT scan, computed tomography scan, computerized axial tomography scan and computerized tomography.

Grade – A classification system that indicates how aggressive a tumor may be. Most pathologists assign a grade from 1 to 4 based on how the cancerous cells look compared to normal cells.

Hematocrit (HCT) – A blood test that measures the percentage of red blood cells found in blood.

Infusion – A method of putting fluids, including drugs, into the bloodstream. Also called intravenous infusion.

Jaundice – A yellowish staining of the skin and sclerae (the whites of the eyes) that is caused by high levels in blood of the chemical bilirubin. Jaundice can signal problems in the blood, liver and bile ducts or indicate the presence of an infection.

Laboratory test – A procedure that evaluates a sample of blood, urine or other substance from the body to make a diagnosis, plan treatment, check whether treatment is working or observe a disease over time.

Lymph Nodes – Found throughout the body, including the neck, underarms and groin. Lymph nodes assist the immune system by catching viruses, bacteria and other unknown materials.

Malignant – An abnormal growth of cells that are cancer.

Mass – A lump in the body.

Metastasis – The spreading of cancer cells from one area of the body to surrounding tissues or organs. After cancer cells spread to other parts of the body, they continue to multiply and form new tumors.

Neoplasm – An abnormal growth of cells that may or may not be cancer (malignant or benign).

Neutropenia – An abnormally low count of white blood cells. Neutropenia may be caused by the following: congenital disorders, autoimmune disorders, cancer, viral infections and certain drugs.

Oncologist – A doctor who specializes in treating people with cancer. The five main types of oncologists are medical, surgical, radiation, gynecologic and pediatric oncologists.

Pathology – The branch of medicine that deals with the laboratory examination of body tissue samples for diagnostic or forensic purposes.

PET Scan – A procedure in which a small amount of radioactive glucose (sugar) is injected into a vein and a scanner is used to make detailed, computerized pictures of areas inside the body where the glucose is taken up. Because cancer cells often take up more glucose than normal cells, the pictures can be used to find cancer cells.

Prognosis – Chance of recovery; a prediction of the outcome of a disease. Ask your physician more about survival statistics used to estimate a patient's prognosis.

Red Blood Cell – Produced in the bone marrow, red blood cells (RBCs) contain hemoglobin which permits them to carry oxygen to organs in the body.

Transfusion – A safe procedure in which red blood cells or platelets are administered through an intravenous line. Transfusions replace blood or platelets lost during surgery, chemotherapy or due to blood disorders.

Tumor – A mass formed when normal cells begin to change and grow uncontrollably. A tumor can be benign (noncancerous) or malignant (cancerous, meaning it can spread to other parts of the body). It can also be called a nodule or mass.

White Blood Cell – White blood cells, or leukocytes, fight infection in the body.



FLCancer.com