WHAT IS CANCER OF THE LIVER?

- Hepatocellular carcinoma is the most common form and it comes from the main type of liver cell, the hepatocyte.
- About 3 out of 4 primary liver cancers are hepatocellular carcinoma.
- Cholangiocarcinoma starts in the small bile ducts that carry bile to the gallbladder.
- About 1 or 2 out of ten cases of liver cancer are cholangiocarcinomas.
HOW MANY PEOPLE GET CANCER OF THE LIVER?

- 14,270 will die of this cancer.
- It is twice as common in men as in women.
- 14th most common cancer in the U.S.
- 5th most common cancer in Hmong population.
WHAT CAUSES CANCER OF THE LIVER?

- Chronic infection with hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV)
- Cirrhosis (scar tissues in liver) due to alcohol, hepatitis, or too much iron in the liver.
- Tobacco use.
- Aflatoxins from a fungus that can contaminate peanuts, wheat, soybeans, groundnuts, corn, and rice.
CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

- HEPATITIS B TRANSMISSION:
  - Hepatitis B is found in body fluids including blood, saliva, semen, mucus, vaginal fluid, and breast milk.
  - It can be transmitted through sexual activity, sharing injecting equipment, toothbrushes, or razors.
  - It can be transmitted from mother to child at birth.
CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

WAYS TO REDUCE HEPATITIS B TRANSMISSION:

- Wash hands after touching blood or body fluids.
- Avoid sharing personal hygiene items that may come into contact with body fluids.
- Cover all cuts and open sores with bandage.
- Practice safe sex.
CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

- Hepatitis B vaccination
  - For all children.
  - For adults at high risk.
- Avoid alcohol abuse.
- There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.
CAN CANCER OF THE LIVER BE PREVENTED?

- HEPATITIS C TRANSMISSION:
  - Hepatitis C is transmitted by blood to blood contact only.
  - Transmission can occur through sharing of needles, unsterile tattooing, body piercing.
  - Sharing razor blades and toothbrushes.
  - Certain sexual activities.
  - Mother to baby.
HOW IS CANCER OF THE LIVER FOUND?

- SYMPTOMS:
  - Loss of appetite and weight
  - Jaundice (yellow discoloration of eyes and skin)
  - Swelling of the abdomen
  - Pain in the abdomen
HOW IS CANCER OF THE LIVER DIAGNOSED?

- **TESTS:**
  - Blood tests of liver function.
  - AFP (alpha fetoprotein) blood test.
  - Blood tests for Hepatitis B and C.
HOW IS CANCER OF THE LIVER DIAGNOSED?

- **TESTS:**
  - Ultrasound of the liver.
  - CT scan or MRI scan of liver.
  - Biopsy
  - Angiogram of the liver.
  - Laparoscopy.
STAGING OF CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- Stage I – Single small tumor less than 2 cm.
- Stage II – Single large tumor or many small tumors confined to one lobe of the liver.
- Stage III – Many large tumors confined to one lobe of the liver or cancer spread to lymph nodes
- Stage IV – Cancer spread to both lobes of the liver.
TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- SURGERY:
  - Curative intent in Stages I, II
  - Liver wedge resection
  - Liver lobectomy
  - Liver transplantation
TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- CHEMOTHERAPY:
  - Drugs given by hepatic artery infusion.
  - Drugs given by chemo embolization.
TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- CHEMOTHERAPY
- SIDE EFFECTS:
  - Nausea and/or vomiting
  - Decreased appetite
  - Temporary loss of hair
  - Sores in mouth or vagina
  - Increased chance of infection
  - Bleeding with minor cuts
  - Anemia or low blood count
  - Tiredness
TREATMENT FOR CANCER OF THE LIVER:

- Radiation therapy by external beam is not often used.
- Radiofrequency ablation.
- Cryotherapy
CANCER OF THE LIVER

• SURVIVAL RATES AT 5 YEARS:
  
  • Early localized cancer – 30-40%
  • All stages combined – 10%
Hepatocellular Carcinoma

- One of the leading causes of cancer deaths in Asia.
- Incidence very high among Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese immigrants.
- Relationship to Hepatitis B and C.
- Hepatitis B vaccine is being offered to all newborns and children in U.S.