Thoracic Oncology Nursing

A team of thoracic oncology nurse coordinators provides specialized education and assistance with symptom management, while guiding patients and family members through treatment and follow-up care. Our nurses frequently assess patient and family needs and integrate supportive care services, community resources and primary care providers to meet individualized needs.

Thoracic Oncology Nurses
Ginny Anderson, RN, BSN, OCN
Melissa Otoya, RN, MSN, CNL
Susan Goins-Eplee, RN, MSN, CNL
Theresa O’Brien, RN, BSN, CHPN

Patient Support

Patient Care Support Services and Tobacco Cessation Counseling

We aim to treat the whole person by providing support services that improve well-being throughout and after the treatment process. Support services provided as part of our care package include:

- Tobacco cessation
- Nutrition
- Chaplaincy
- Financial coordination
- Social services
- American Cancer Society Patient Navigator to assist with practical needs such as transportation and local lodging, if needed

To Refer a Patient
Thoracic Oncology Surgery | 434.924.2158
Thoracic Medical Oncology | 434.924.4246
Thoracic Radiation Oncology | 434.924.5191
Thoracic Imaging | 434.924.9729
Pathology | 434.982.0466
Pulmonology | 434.924.9783

For more information about UVA Cancer Center’s lung cancer program, visit cancer.uvahealth.com/lungcancer.

University of Virginia Cancer Center is a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center. This designation is awarded only to those centers that meet NCI’s rigorous criteria for establishing leading-edge programs in multidisciplinary cancer research and that dedicate extensive resources to developing more effective approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Qualifying centers like UVA are eligible for increased federal funding, helping further our efforts to transform science into treatments that can directly benefit patients.
Lung Cancer Experts

At UVA Cancer Center, our thoracic oncology team provides nationally recognized clinical care and innovative multidisciplinary clinical trials for lung cancer patients. Our teams are composed of subspecialists in the fields of surgery, medical and radiation oncology, radiology, pulmonology and pathology all dedicated to thoracic oncology care. Our team meets weekly to discuss cases and develop a comprehensive and personalized treatment plan for each patient.

Collaboration with Referring Providers

We value your partnership and seek to foster a team approach in caring for your patient. Our physicians will customize communications related to your patient’s care to meet your needs. We can provide patient reports, second opinions and coordination of radiation and chemotherapy treatments closer to your patient’s home, as desired.

We are committed to seeing your patient within one week of your referral. In an effort to make our services as easy as possible for your patient, appointments with multiple specialists can be scheduled for the same visit.

Dedicated Lung Cancer Team

Surgery

Our three dedicated thoracic surgeons are high-volume providers, performing over 200 lung resections annually. As an aggregate using vigorous protocols, our performance outcomes for lobectomies are outstanding compared with other programs in the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Database, including a mortality rate of 1 percent and a complication rate of 9 percent.

Key points:
- Robust thoracic surgery is offered in more than 70 percent of procedures
- Three-day median inpatient stay
- Patient-reported outcomes incorporated as standard practice

Thoracic Surgeons

Benjamin Kozower, MD
James Isbell, MD
Benjamin Kozower, MD

For referrals, or to learn more, you can reach our Thoracic Oncology Surgical Team at 434.924.2158.

Medical Oncology

Our thoracic medical oncologists work exclusively with lung cancer patients and have developed an expanding lung cancer research program offering 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials covering all aspects of lung cancer.

Key points:
- Access to UVA investigator-initiated studies and national/international multisitutional clinical trials
- Personalized approach to medicine
- Diagnostic analysis utilized to target best-outlined existing and novel therapies
- Waits, timing and treatment conveniently located in the same building

Thoracic Medical Oncologists

Richard Hill, MD
Ryan Ganzler, MD

For referrals, or to learn more, you can reach our Thoracic Medical Oncology Team at 434.924.4246.

Diagnostic Radiology

Radiation Oncology

We are national leaders in the most advanced radiation treatments, including stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and respiratory gating. Our radiation oncologists were the first to define SBRT dose-volume algorithms to reduce the risk of chest wall toxicity without compromising tumor coverage and to determine that tumor size is an important predictor of response in SBRT.

Key points:
- SBRT and IMRT offer improved target conformity, dose escalation and increased normal tissue sparing
- Noninvasive respiratory gating accurately tracks tumor position during treatment
- High-dose rate delivery during SBRT treatments and real-time monitoring of radiation therapy delivery ensures intended dose delivery
- One of two centers in the U.S. — and six worldwide — utilizing this state-of-the-art dose delivery quality assurance program

Thoracic Diagnostics

To provide your patients with an individualized treatment plan and higher detection rates that can accelerate treatment, our Thoracic Diagnostic Team offers the most comprehensive diagnostic approach in the region, including:
- Low-dose radiation using advanced equipment
- A full service line of interventional radiologic procedures
- Subspecialized expert interpretations
- TruSight® genomic panel with 26 genes commonly mutated in solid organs
- Nine-generation sequencing
- Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) for ALK and ROS 1 gene rearrangements
- Pyrosequencing for EGFR and KRAS

Thoracic Radiologists

Michael Hanley, MD
Juan Diazagasti, MD
Juliana Bueno, MD
Rick Norton, MD

For referrals, or to learn more, you can reach our Thoracic Imaging Team at 434.924.9723.

Pathology Specialist

H. Charles Malpass III, MD

For referrals, or to learn more, you can reach our Pathology Team at 434.982.0466.

Pulmonary Specialist

Edward Stelow, MD

For referrals, or to learn more, you can reach our Pulmonary Team at 434.924.9783.