

Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA)



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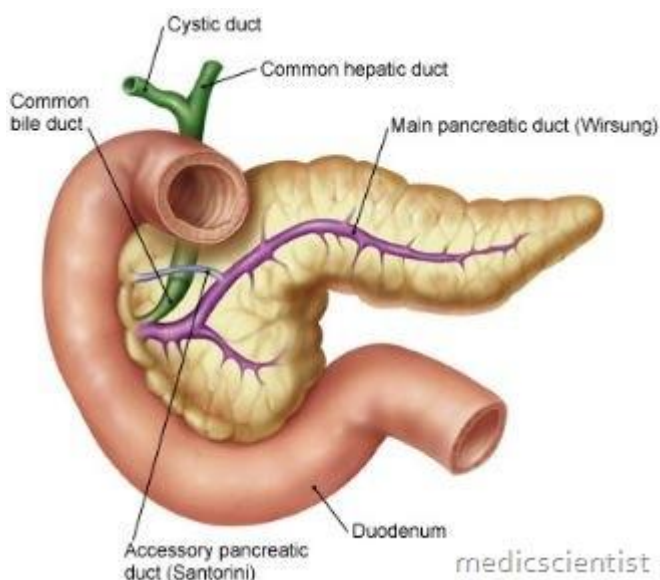
Fact Sheet on Somatostatinoma

Introduction

Somatostatinomas are rare tumours that can develop in the pancreas or small bowel. Pancreatic tumours most commonly develop in the head of the pancreas.

[Picture Credit: Pancreas]

Somatostatinomas develop in hormone producing cells in the pancreas called islet cells. There are different types of islet cells, each producing different hormones. Delta islet cells make the hormone somatostatin. Somatostatin cuts off production of other hormones by the pancreas and controls how the gut works. Somatostatinomas produce extra somatostatin, which eventually leads to symptoms.



Incidence of Somatostatinomas

The National Cancer Registry of 2014 does not furnish any information regarding Somatostatinoma. According to the National Cancer Registry (2014) the following number of pancreatic cancer cases was histologically diagnosed in South Africa during 2014:

Group - Males 2014	Actual No of Cases	Estimated Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
All males	167	1:869	0,45%
Asian males	9	1:349	1,00%
Black males	46	1:2 505	0,42%
Coloured males	27	1:580	0,64%
White males	85	1:358	0,41%

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Group - Females 2014	Actual No of Cases	Estimated Lifetime Risk	Percentage of All Cancers
All females	175	1:1 125	0,46%
Asian females	3	1:1 890	0,26%
Black females	63	1:2 297	0,39%
Coloured females	21	1:760	0,50%
White females	89	1:431	0,54%

The frequency of histologically diagnosed cases of pancreatic cancer in South Africa for 2014 was as follows (National Cancer Registry, 2014):

Group - Males 2014	0 – 19 Years	20 – 29 Years	30 – 39 Years	40 – 49 Years	50 – 59 Years	60 – 69 Years	70 – 79 Years	80+ Years
All males	0	0	2	22	47	57	29	9
Asian males	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	0
Black males	0	0	2	13	13	13	1	2
Coloured males	0	0	0	2	6	13	3	2
White males	0	0	1	3	28	24	24	2

Group - Females 2014	0 – 19 Years	20 – 29 Years	30 – 39 Years	40 – 49 Years	50 – 59 Years	60 – 69 Years	70 – 79 Years	80+ Years
All females	1	1	5	18	39	551	39	19
Asian females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black females	1	1	4	8	16	17	10	2
Coloured females	0	0	1	2	8	6	3	0
White females	0	0	0	7	14	25	23	17

N.B. In the event that the totals in any of the above tables do not tally, this may be the result of uncertainties as to the age, race or sex of the individual. The totals for 'all males' and 'all females', however, always reflect the correct totals.

Signs and Symptoms of Somatostatinoma

The following are typical signs and symptoms for Somatostatinoma:

- Excess somatostatin
- Mild hyperglycaemia
- Presence of gallstones
- Malabsorption problems
- Presence of excessive fat in faeces
- Weight loss
- Diagnosis of diabetes
- Cholestatic jaundice
- Presence of intestinal tumour
- Presence of a pancreatic tumour
- Reduced hydrochloric acid in digestive system
- Reduced gastric release

Treatment of Somatostatinoma

Since somatostatinomas have a high malignant potential, aggressive intervention is warranted. Surgical excision usually offers the only opportunity for long-term cure.

About Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are research studies that involve people. They are conducted under controlled conditions. Only about 10% of all drugs started in human clinical trials become an approved drug.

Clinical trials include:

- Trials to test effectiveness of new treatments
- Trials to test new ways of using current treatments
- Tests new interventions that may lower the risk of developing certain types of cancers
- Tests to find new ways of screening for cancer

The [South African National Clinical Trials Register](#) provides the public with updated information on clinical trials on human participants being conducted in South Africa. The Register provides information on the purpose of the clinical trial; who can participate, where the trial is located, and contact details.

For additional information, please visit: www.sanctr.gov.za/

Medical Disclaimer

This Fact Sheet is intended to provide general information only and, as such, should not be considered as a substitute for advice, medically or otherwise, covering any specific situation. Users should seek appropriate advice before taking or refraining from taking any action in reliance on any information contained in this Fact Sheet. So far as permissible by law, the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) does not accept any liability to any person (or his/her dependants/estate/heirs) relating to the use of any information contained in this Fact Sheet.

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Sources and References Consulted or Utilised

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Right Diagnosis

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