

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225) to make an appointment.

×



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

[Make an Appointment](#)

[Back](#)

[Pancreatic Cysts](#)

[About Our Center & Treatment](#)

[Refer a Patient](#)

ABOUT US

[Our mission, vision & core values](#)

[Leadership](#)

[History](#)

[Equality, diversity & inclusion](#)

[Annual report](#)

[Give to MSK](#)



Hans Gerdes (center) is one of MSK's many experts in pancreatic cysts.

To [diagnose a pancreatic cyst](#), your MSK care team will first get a clear understanding of your symptoms. They will talk with you about your medical history and general health. They will review results from imaging tests, if you have them.

We will ask whether you have a family history of pancreatic or other gastrointestinal cancers, such as [stomach](#), [gallbladder](#), or [liver](#) cancer. This can mean a higher risk of the cyst becoming cancer over time.

Tests to diagnose a pancreatic cyst

Pancreatic cyst blood tests

+

Diagnostic imaging tests for pancreatic cysts

+

Pancreatic cyst biopsy

+

Experts in diagnosing pancreatic cysts

A doctor called a [pathologist](#) will examine the pancreatic cyst tissue and fluid under a microscope. The pathologist will find what type of cells are in the sample, and if any are cancer cells.

MSK pathologists are experts in diagnosing pancreatic cysts. Because of their experience, they're often asked to review biopsy samples from labs other than MSK.

Most pancreatic cysts are benign (not cancer) and have a low chance of harming you. MSK's [team of pancreatic cysts experts](#) will review your test results. Together they will make a plan for you based on whether the pancreatic cyst needs treatment.

Request an Appointment

Call [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225)

Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time)

[Make an Appointment](#)

PREVIOUS

[Pancreatic Cysts](#)

NEXT

[Pancreatic Cyst Treatment](#)

[Communication preferences](#)

[Cookie preferences](#)

[Legal disclaimer](#)

[Accessibility statement](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Price transparency](#)

[Public notices](#)

© 2024 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center