

Upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancer surgical care pathway

1. Pre-surgery

Getting to Sunnybrook

Before you are referred to Sunnybrook, you will have met with your family doctor, gastroenterologist, or referring specialist. If your doctor suspects or determines that you have an HPB or upper gastrointestinal cancer then you do not need a biopsy before your first Sunnybrook appointment.

About your cancer

There are numerous types of HPB or upper gastrointestinal cancers that are treated at Sunnybrook. Learn more about these cancers:

- Adrenal
- Bile duct & gallbladder
- Colorectal liver metastasis
- Gastric (stomach)
- Gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST)
- Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
- Neuroendocrine tumour (NET)
- Pancreatic
- Spleen

Your first appointment: consultation

Local patients

Most patients will have their first clinic visit within 5-7 days.

For patients who live far away

If you live far from Sunnybrook, teleconference consultations can be arranged.

Pre-treatment

Treatment plan

Before your treatment is decided, a group of world-leading cancer experts meet to discuss your best possible treatment plan.

Prehabilitation

Before your surgery, your surgeon may talk to you about prehabilitation.

The goal of prehabilitation is to help you become as healthy and strong as possible to prepare you for surgery and the recovery period that follows.

2. Surgery

If you need surgery, minimally invasive procedures mean fewer incisions and faster recovery. Some HPB resections may be performed using a minimally invasive approach.

Our experts are also world leaders in traditional open surgeries.

3. Post-surgery

Follow up with your surgeon

You will meet with your surgeon to review the next steps in your care pathway.

Transition plan

At the end of your treatment, you will meet with the team to discuss a plan for long-term care and surveillance.

Contact us

Contact the patient and family education team at patienteducation@sunnybrook.ca or 416-480-4534.

For questions about your care, please contact your care team directly.