

USING SURGERY IN CANCER CARE

Surgery can be used in several different ways during the care of a patient with cancer:

Surgery to Diagnose Cancer: In some cases, it is necessary to perform surgery to obtain a tumor sample, or biopsy, for diagnosing cancer.

Surgery to Debulk a Cancer: In some cases, such as if a tumor is extremely large and/or located very close to important organs or tissues, only part of the tumor is removed.

Surgery to Stage Cancer: In some cases, it is necessary to perform surgery to determine how far a cancer has spread from the site at which it arose. This information is vital for establishing the best treatment plan for a patient.

Surgery to Ease Problems Caused by a Cancer: In some cases, most commonly for patients with advanced cancer, surgery can be performed palliatively to remove tumors that are causing pain, pressure, or blockages.

Surgery to cure cancer: In some cases, most commonly when cancer is confined to one area of the

body, surgery can be performed with curative intent. During such a surgery, the entire tumor is removed.

Surgery for patients with cancer can be open or minimally invasive:

Open Surgery is when a surgeon makes one or more large cuts to remove the tumor, some healthy tissue, and maybe some nearby lymph nodes.



Minimally Invasive Surgery is when a surgeon makes a few small cuts instead of one or more large ones. A long, thin tube with a tiny camera is inserted into one of the small cuts, allowing the surgeon to see what is happening, and special surgery tools are inserted through the other small cuts to remove the tumor and some healthy tissue.

