



News briefs

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Pancreatic cancer patients suffering treatable symptoms in silence

Many patients with pancreatic cancer experience severe digestive problems that significantly impact their quality of life, a conference of cancer experts in Brisbane will be told today (14/11).

Helen Gooden, researcher at the University of Sydney, will tell the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting that the psychosocial supportive care needs of patients with pancreatic cancer are being neglected despite the availability of effective treatment for their symptoms.

“The reduced pancreatic function for patients results in symptoms that are painful, uncomfortable and embarrassing. My research found patients become socially isolated and avoid eating, which further impacts on their disease,” Ms Gooden said.

“We need to develop a protocol for treating patients with pancreatic cancer. Patients need to be given information about the symptoms of pancreatic exocrine insufficiency, be assessed by a dietician and be prescribed treatment which is now available on the PBS.”

[Wednesday, 3-4pm Poster presentation, Exhibition Hall, Brisbane Convention Centre](#)

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