



Transcript of 'What is pancreatic cancer' information video

Title slide: What is pancreatic cancer?

Lisa, Specialist Nurse: My name is Lisa. I'm one of the specialist nurses at Pancreatic Cancer UK. I work on the charity [Support Line](#). I'm there to provide support and advice for people with pancreatic cancer

This video talks about pancreatic cancer. What is pancreatic cancer and what does the pancreas do?

Title slide: What is the pancreas?

Lisa: The pancreas sits behind the stomach and is near to the liver, the small intestine and major blood vessels.

The pancreas produces enzymes which help us break down our food. It also produces hormones such as insulin, which helps us regulate our blood sugars.

Title slide: What is pancreatic cancer?

Lisa: Cells in the body grow and change all the time but in pancreatic cancer, the cells grow out of control, and they form into a lump and this could be called a mass or a tumour.

There are [different types of tumours](#) that can develop within the pancreas. The most common of these is called a [pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma](#). This is the most common but there are other tumours which can be called pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours, or [pancreatic NETs](#).

Title slide: What are the symptoms of pancreatic cancer?

Lisa: Somebody who has pancreatic cancer might have lost weight unintentionally, so you might not try to lose weight. You might have lost your appetite and gone off your food.

Your bowel habits might have changed so you might have diarrhoea, bloating tummy, you might find that your poo has gone pale, is floating, a bit greasy, difficult to flush. Some people will have constipation.

Other people will have pain in their stomach and their tummy. It might go to their back as well as they might have back pain.

Other people will become jaundiced. So their skin often will go yellow, sometimes it can be itchy. Also their urine will go darker and their stools will become pale and the whites the eyes go yellow as well.

These [symptoms](#) might come and they might go away and then they might come back again.

I would advise that you go and see your GP and discuss your concerns and the symptoms that you have.

Pancreatic Cancer UK has a website with a lot more [information on symptoms](#) and other support. You can look at the website on www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk or you can phone the nurses on our [Support Line](#) on **0808 801 0707** and you can also email us on **nurse@pancreaticcancer.org.uk**