Cholangiocarcinoma (BILE DUCT CANCER)  

Cholangiocarcinoma is a type of liver cancer that occurs in the bile ducts, which are responsible for transporting bile from the liver to the small intestine. There are three main types of cholangiocarcinoma:

**DISTAL**
Distal CCA occurs outside the liver after the right and left hepatic bile ducts have joined to form the common bile duct. This type of cancer is found where the common bile duct passes through the pancreas and into the small intestine.

**INTRAHEPATIC**
Intrahepatic CCA occurs inside the liver where cancer develops in the hepatic bile ducts or the smaller intrahepatic biliary ducts. In some cases, patients express a combined diagnosis.* (see reverse)

**PERIHILAR** (HILAR OR KLATSKIN TUMOR)
These cancers develop where the right and left hepatic ducts have joined and are leaving the liver. These are the most common type of cholangiocarcinoma accounting for more than half of all bile duct cancers.

Find additional resources and support at the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation.

info@cholangiocarcinoma.org  www.cholangiocarcinoma.org
CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA TERMINOLOGY CHART

CANCERS THAT AFFECT THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

GI (Gastrointestinal) Cancers

TYPES OF GI CANCERS

Gastric (Stomach)  Primary Liver Cancer or Hepatocellular (HCC)  Colorectal  Anal  Pancreas

Small Intestine  Biliary Tract  Colon  Rectal

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER

Primary Liver Cancer or Hepatocellular (HCC)

GALL BLADDER CANCER

Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA)

TYPES OF HEPATOBLIARY CANCERS (PRIMARY TUMORS ORIGINATING FROM THE LIVER AND BILE DUCTS)

Primary Liver Cancer or Hepatocellular (HCC)  Combined Hepatocellular (HCC) and Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA)

THREE SUBTYPES OF CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA BASED ON TUMOR LOCATION

Intrahepatic  Perihilar (Hilar or Klatskin Tumor)  Distal

Intrahepatic CCA occurs inside the liver where cancer develops in the hepatic bile ducts or the smaller intrahepatic biliary ducts. In some cases, patients express a combined diagnosis.*

Perihilar (Hilar or Klatskin Tumor) CCA occurs where the right and left hepatic ducts have joined and are leaving the liver. These are the most common type of cholangiocarcinoma accounting for more than half of all bile duct cancers.

Distal CCA occurs outside the liver after the right and left hepatic bile ducts have joined to form the common bile duct. This type of cancer is found where the common bile duct passes through the pancreas and into the small intestine.

Biliary Tract Cancers

The biliary tract includes the gallbladder and bile ducts inside and outside the liver

Some intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma tumors have microscopic features of both hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma and are considered 'combined' or 'mixed' tumors.

Extrahepatic or Bile Duct Cancer

Develops inside the bile ducts but outside the liver

MUTATIONS MATTER

Molecular profiling could open the door to other treatments, including targeted therapies, immunotherapies, and access to clinical trials.

Learn more at mutationsmatter.org

CLINICAL TRIALS

We strongly recommend that all patients consider clinical trials each time a treatment decision is made, including at diagnosis.

Learn more at cholangiocarcinoma.org/clinicaltrials

PATIENT REGISTRY

Entering your data is crucial to help dedicated researchers make important discoveries. Together we can move research forward.

Learn more at cholangiocarcinoma.org/icpr

CHOLANGIOCONNECT

A peer-to-peer connection platform that offers emotional support to anyone touched by this disease, at any stage in their journey.

Learn more at cholangioconnect.org

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