

## CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS GLOSSARY

This Glossary was created by and is maintained on a volunteer basis by fellow Cholangiocarcinoma patients and caregivers. It is intended to be used as a quick reference guide to aid in understanding the numerous acronyms and abbreviations we encounter as we are diagnosed and treated for Cholangiocarcinoma.

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ACRONYM/ABBREVIATION	STANDS FOR	DESCRIPTION
<b>5FU</b>	Fluorouracil Sold under the brand name <b>Adrucil</b> among others	A medication used to treat cancer. The name 5FU (5-fluorouracil) shows that there is a fluorine atom on the 5th carbon of a uracil ring in this drug's molecular structure.
<b>ALK Phos / ALK / ALP</b>	Alkaline Phosphatase  ALK Phosphatase	An enzyme found throughout the body, but mostly found in the liver, bones, kidneys, and digestive system. ALK Phos is important for breaking down proteins. High levels can indicate liver damage or liver disease, such as a blocked bile duct, or it can indicate certain bone diseases.
<b>ALT</b>	Alanine Transaminase	An enzyme found in the liver that helps convert proteins into energy for the liver cells. It is known as ALT or SGPT. When the liver is damaged, ALT/ SGPT is released into the bloodstream and levels increase.
<b>SGPT</b>	serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase	
<b>AST</b>	Aspartate Transaminase	An enzyme that helps metabolize amino acids. AST is normally present in blood at low levels. It is also known as AST or SGOT. An increase in AST/ SGOT levels may indicate liver damage or disease, or muscle damage.
<b>SGOT</b>	serum glutaic-oxaloacetic transaminase	
<b>Bili</b>	Bilirubin	Bilirubin is a substance produced during the normal breakdown of red blood cells. Bilirubin passes through the liver and is excreted in stool. Elevated levels of bilirubin (yellowish colouration of skin and eye which known as jaundice) might indicate liver damage or disease or certain types of anemia.
<b>CA 19-9</b>	Cancer Antigen 19-9	A protein in the blood that is a tumor marker, a substance made by cancer cells or by normal cells in response to cancer. Because high levels of CA 19-9 can mean different things, the test is not used by itself to screen for or diagnose cancer. It can help monitor the progress of cancer and the effectiveness of cancer treatment.
<b>CAP</b>	Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis	A term commonly used when ordering imaging (e.g. a CAP CT Scan).
<b>CAT Scan/CT Scan</b>	Computed Tomography Scan	A medical imaging procedure that uses computer-processed combinations of many X-ray measurements taken from different angles to produce cross-sectional (tomographic) images (virtual "slices") of specific areas of a scanned object without cutting. For Cholangio patients, CAT Scan is commonly used to diagnose and monitor metastasis to the lungs, Lymph nodes, or abdominal spread into the peritoneum. Can be done with and without contrast
<b>CC or CCA</b> <b>IHCCA / ICC / iCCA</b> <b>pCCA</b> <b>dCCA</b> <b>EHCCA/ ECC / eCCA</b>	Cholangiocarcinoma Cholangio Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma Perihilar Cholangiocarcinoma  Distal Cholangiocarcinoma Extrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma	Cancer of the bile* ducts. There are three main types of cholangiocarcinoma: Intrahepatic—in the small bile duct branches within the liver. Perihilar or Hilar (Klatskin tumors) – at the hilum, the point where the hepatic ducts join together to exit the liver. {Distal}—further down in the bile duct, outside the liver, closer to the duodenum. Extrahepatic — includes both perihilar and distal cholangiocarcinoma together *Bile is a digestive liquid that is made in the liver. It travels through the bile ducts to the gallbladder and the small intestine, where it helps digest fats and fatty vitamins.
<b>CCF</b>	Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation	The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation's (CCF) mission is to find a cure and improve the quality of life for those affected by cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer). Founded in 2006, in Salt Lake City, UT, by a family who lost a loved one to cholangiocarcinoma, CCF has grown to become the leading global resource in research, education, and public awareness. <a href="https://cholangiocarcinoma.org/">https://cholangiocarcinoma.org/</a>
<b>CEA</b>	CarcinoEmbryonic Antigen	A protein in the body that helps diagnose and monitor various forms of cancer including: Bladder, breast, colon and/or rectal, lung, ovarian, pancreatic, stomach, and thyroid.
<b>Chemo / CTh</b>	Chemotherapy	A type of cancer treatment that uses one or more anti-cancer drugs (chemotherapeutic agents) as part of a standardized regimen.
<b>Creatinine Blood Test</b>		A creatine blood test measures the level of creatinine in the blood. Creatine is a waste product that forms when creatine, which is found in your muscles, breaks down. Creatine levels in the blood can provide your doctor with information about how well your kidneys are working.
<b>DVT</b>	Deep Vein Thrombosis	A blood clot in a deep vein, most commonly in the leg or pelvis.
<b>ERCP</b>	Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography	A technique that combines the use of endoscopy and fluoroscopy to diagnose and treat certain problems of the biliary or pancreatic ductal systems. ERCP is primarily performed by highly skilled and specialty trained gastroenterologists. The endoscopy goes through the mouth into the stomach and the first part of the intestine (duodenum). Then, the doctor inject a contrast medium into the ducts in the biliary tree and pancreas so they can be seen on radiographs.
<b>EUS</b>	Endoscopic Ultrasound / EUS	Endoscopic ultrasound or echo-endoscopy is a medical procedure in which endoscopy is combined with ultrasound to obtain images of the internal organs in the chest, abdomen (esophagus, stomach, pancreas, colon, rectum), and pelvis (urinary bladder and prostate). It can be used to visualize the walls of these organs, or to look at adjacent structures and allows adequate tumor staging and getting tissue biopsy.
<b>FOLFOX</b>	Folinic acid, Fluorouracil, and Oxaliplatin	A combination chemotherapy regimen that has historically been used to treat colorectal cancer.
<b>Folfiri</b>	Folinic acid, Fluorouracil and Irinotecan	A combination chemotherapy regimen that has historically been used to treat bowel cancer.
<b>Gem/Cis</b>	Gemcitabine/Cisplatin	A combination chemotherapy regimen used to treat many forms of cancer including biliary track.
<b>GGT</b>	Gamma-glutamyl transferase	An enzyme found in many organs throughout the body, with the highest concentrations found in the liver. GGT is elevated in the blood in most diseases that cause damage to the liver or bile ducts. GGT is usually the first liver enzyme to rise in the blood when any of the bile ducts that carry bile from the liver to the intestines become obstructed. GGT can be used as a follow up to an elevated ALP to help determine if the high ALP result is due to liver or bone disease because both GGT and ALP are increased in liver diseases, but only ALP will be increased with diseases affecting bone tissue.
<b>HFS</b>	Hand Foot Syndrome  Chemotherapy-induced acral erythema	Reddening, swelling, numbness and sloughing or peeling on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet (and occasionally on the knees, elbows and elsewhere) This may occur as a side effects of some cancer therapies
<b>HIPEC</b>	Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy	warmed chemotherapy (anti-cancer medications) are infused and circulated in the abdominal cavity
<b>IR</b>	Interventional Radiologist	A medical doctor who performs invasive procedures using radiation or imaging (e.g. liver biopsy, lung biopsy, Y90, ablation).
<b>IRT</b>	Internal Radiation Therapy (Brachytherapy)	This type of treatment uses small pellets of radioactive material that are put next to or right into the tumor. The radiation travels a very short distance, so it affects the cancer without causing much harm to nearby healthy body tissues.
<b>Met or Mets</b>	Metastasis	Cancer that has spread to other areas of the body or to other places in the liver.
<b>MRI</b>	Magnetic Resonance Imaging	A medical imaging technique that uses strong magnetic fields, magnetic field gradients, and radio waves to generate images of the organs in the body. MRI does not involve X-rays or use of ionizing radiation, which distinguishes it from CT and PET scans. MRI is often the preferred imaging technique for the liver because it shows greater detail than CT or ultrasound.
<b>MSI - H</b>	Microsatellite Instability - High	MSI - High is a condition of genetic hypermutability that generates excessive amounts of short insertion/deletion of mutations in the genome. It generally occurs at microsatellite DNA sequences and is caused by a deficiency in the DNA mismatch repair in the tumor.
<b>NASH</b>	nonalcoholic steatohepatitis	Accumulation of fat into the liver in people who drink little or no alcohol.
<b>NED</b>	No Evidence of Disease.	Imaging or testing shows no cancer at the time of that testing.
<b>Onc or Med Onc</b>	Oncologist  Medical Oncologist	A medical doctor who practices oncology, which is branch of medicine that deals with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Typically the term Oncologist (Onc) is used when referring to a Medical Oncologist, who specializes in treating cancer using chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy.
<b>PBC</b>	Primary Biliary Cirrhosis or Primary Biliary Cholangitis	Autoimmune destruction in the bile ducts that leads to accumulation of bile into the liver and subsequent permanent liver scarring
<b>PCP</b>	Primary Care Physician	The doctor you go to for routine medical care.

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<b>GP</b>	General Practitioner	A physician who provides both the first contact for a person with an undiagnosed health concern as well as continuing care of varied medical conditions, not limited by cause, organ system, or diagnosis.
<b>PET Scan / PET-CT scan</b>	Positron Emission Tomography  Positron Emission Tomography-computed tomography	An imaging technique that uses radioactive substances to visualize and measure metabolic processes in the body. A tracer is injected into the body, which gets trapped within the tissues of interest and is visible (lights up) on the screen. Then, a computerized tomography x-rays will be used to take images for the whole body to identify the metabolically active tissue in the body PET Scan is used to diagnose and monitor cancer metastasis. A PET scan may be used in isolation or in combination with a CT scan overlay.
<b>PIPEC</b>	Pressurized intraperitoneal aerosol chemotherapy	Chemotherapy (anti-cancer medications) are infused and circulated in the abdominal cavity under pressure.
<b>PLT</b>	Platelets	Platelets are small cells that circulate in the blood and form blood clots that allow wounds to heal and prevent excessive bleeding. Platelets, also called thrombocytes, are small cells without a nucleus whose function (along with the coagulation factors) is to react to bleeding from blood vessel injury by clumping, thereby initiating a blood clot
<b>PSC</b>	Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis	An auto-immune disease of the bile ducts which causes scarring, leading to liver failure eventually, for most patients.
<b>PTC</b>	Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram	The drainage tube is placed through the skin into one of the bile ducts in the liver to allow bile out
<b>PVE</b>	Portal Vein Embolization	A preoperative procedure performed to initiate hypertrophy (an increase in the weight) of the anticipated future liver remnant a couple weeks prior to a major liver resection. The procedure involves injecting the right or left portal vein with embolic (blocking) material to occlude portal blood flow. By occluding the blood flow to areas of the liver that will be resected away, the blood is diverted to healthy parts of the liver and induces hyperplasia (increase in organic tissue caused by cell proliferation) and may allow for a more extensive resection or stage bilateral resections.
<b>RBC</b>	Red Blood Cell	A red blood cell count is a blood test used to find out how many red blood cells (RBCs) you have. It's also known as an erythrocyte count. The test is important because RBCs contain hemoglobin, which carries oxygen to your body's tissues. The number of RBCs you have can affect how much oxygen your tissues receive. Your tissues need oxygen to function.
<b>RO or Rad Onc</b>	Radiation Oncologist	A medical doctor who performs non-invasive treatments using radiation (e.g. SBRT).
<b>SBRT</b>	Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy	A form of radiation treatment that delivers to cancer cells extremely precise doses of radiation from different angles simultaneously. The radiation is most intense at the point where the beams intersect. This minimizes damage to the healthy tissue that each beam passes through. CyberKnife is the brand name for one of the types of devices used to do SBRT.
<b>TPN</b>	Total Parenteral Nutrition	A method of feeding that bypasses the gastrointestinal tract. Fluids are given into a vein to provide most of the nutrients the body needs. TPN is used when a person cannot or should not receive feedings or fluids by mouth.
<b>TX</b>	Transplant	
<b>VATS</b>	Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery	A minimally invasive surgical technique used to diagnose and treat problems in your chest. During a VATS procedure, a tiny camera (thoracoscope) and surgical instruments are inserted into the chest through one or more small incisions in the chest wall. The thoracoscope transmits images of the inside of the chest onto a video monitor, guiding the surgeon in performing the procedure.
<b>WBC</b>	White Blood Cell	WBCs, also called leukocytes, are an important part of the immune system. These cells help fight infections by attacking bacteria, viruses, and germs that invade the body. White blood cells originate in the bone marrow but circulate throughout the bloodstream.
<b>Whipple</b>	Pancreaticoduodenectomy	A complex operation to remove the head of the pancreas, the first part of the small intestine (duodenum), the gallbladder and the bile duct. The Whipple procedure is used to treat (remove) tumors and treat other disorders of the pancreas, intestine and bile duct. After performing the Whipple procedure, your surgeon reconnects the remaining organs to allow you to digest food normally after surgery. The classic Whipple procedure is named after Allen Whipple, MD, a Columbia University surgeon who was, in 1935, the first American to perform the operation.
<b>Y90</b>	Yttrium-90/Radioembolization or TheraSphere	Radioembolization procedure involving implanting microscopic beads containing radioactive material (Yttrium-90) into the arteries that feed a tumor. Implantation is done using a catheter inserted through an artery, usually in the groin.