

Thoracic Cancer Program

Overview



Effective Evaluation & Advanced Care for Thoracic Cancers

Whether you've recently been diagnosed with lung cancer or another thoracic malignancy or referred to our program for a lung nodule assessment, you're probably concerned about what comes next.

At the Thoracic Cancer Program at Tufts Medical Center, care begins with a fast, effective evaluation. Using the latest techniques, our team of experts provides an accurate diagnosis while minimizing additional testing. This means less worrying for you and your family.

Our highly skilled doctors and nurses understand the challenges you face, delivering comprehensive, compassionate treatment for all malignancies of the chest, including:

- **Lung cancer**
- **Esophageal cancer**
- Mesotheliomas (tumors in the lining of the lungs)
- Thymomas (tumors of the thymus gland)
- **Tracheal tumors**

We also provide follow-up evaluation in our **Lung Nodule Evaluation Center**. Lung nodules are abnormalities commonly observed on a CT scan. They may be cancerous or noncancerous, and our experts will give you a diagnosis quickly so that you'll know your treatment options as soon as possible. Call us today at **617-636-6227** or **request an appointment** online with one of our specialists.

What Are My Treatment Options?

Your treatment options depend on your specific disease and how far it has advanced.

Surgery

Surgery is often the first step in treating tumors of the chest, particularly if they are early-stage. Whenever possible, our experienced surgeons use minimally invasive techniques such as video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery to reduce your pain, risk and recovery time.

For early-stage cancers, **surgery** may be enough to eliminate the tumors. For more advanced cancers within the chest, surgery is often followed by radiation and/or chemotherapy.

Radical Surgery & Radiation Therapy

Patients with early-stage lung cancer who aren't candidates for traditional surgery may receive stereotactic body radiotherapy (**SBRT**). This noninvasive treatment uses large doses of precisely focused radiation to kill cancer cells with minimal side effects.

We also use traditional radiation therapy to treat thoracic cancers such as lung cancer, often in combination with surgery.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy and other "targeted" cancer-fighting medications can be used alone or in combination with other therapies. They're often prescribed to reduce tumor size prior to a surgical resection (removing all or a portion of the lung) or to prevent recurrence following surgery.

Our doctors use advanced molecular profiling to determine if targeted anti-cancer drugs — which usually have fewer side effects than traditional chemotherapy — are appropriate for you.

Clinical Trials

In addition to the above treatment options, you may have access to some of the most promising clinical trials here and across the country.

The Specialists You Need for the Care You Deserve

Our doctors all have extensive experience treating patients with lung cancer, esophageal cancer and other thoracic cancers. Our team includes thoracic surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists, radiologists, medical and interventional pulmonologists, gastroenterologists and nutritionists as well as experts in pain management and palliative care. Your individualized care team will include the necessary specialists to provide the best possible treatment for your cancer type.

If a recent imaging test has revealed nodules or "spots" on your lungs, our doctors will work closely with the expert team in the Lung Nodule Evaluation Center to provide you with a prompt evaluation. Our assessment will determine the nature of the nodule, the need for further testing and, if necessary, the ideal follow-up plan for your condition.



Which therapy is right for you?

Everyone's experience with chronic pain or cancer pain is different, as is everyone's response to therapy. Our team works closely with your referring doctor to understand your pain and develop a treatment plan that's right for you.

In order to ensure the best results possible, we consider the full range of treatment options. Some patients, for example, benefit from oral medications or referral to a **physical therapist** or **behavior specialist**. Others require interventions for pain management, such as:

- Epidural steroid injections
- Selective nerve root injections
- Lumbar facet injections
- Sacroiliac (SI) joint injections
- Ultrasound-guided nerve blocks
- Radiofrequency lesioning

In most cases, we're able to get pain under control to help people avoid surgery. But if surgery remains an option for you, we can refer you to Tufts MC **neurosurgeons** for further evaluation and even administer injections that help your neurosurgeon decide on a surgical plan.

Our team is also well-versed in a variety of approaches for managing cancer pain. For instance, we can use a celiac plexus block in patients with pancreatic cancer. This technique destroys the nerve fibers leading to the pancreas, thus interrupting that pain pathway and significantly lessening your pain.

We realize that dealing with chronic pain or cancer pain is often a long-term struggle. Whatever form your therapy takes, we'll be here to monitor your pain and adjust your medications as necessary.

Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program

Overview



Helping your child lead a normal life

If your child suffers from inflammatory bowel disease, you're far from alone. Conditions such as ulcerative colitis and **Crohn's disease** are becoming increasingly common in children — and are emerging at younger ages.

At the pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program at Floating Hospital for Children in Boston, we specialize in getting inflammatory bowel disease under control. We have the expertise to reduce inflammation of the digestive tract so that your child can live a normal, more comfortable life.

A team you can trust

Inflammatory bowel disease can be tough on a child. In addition to troubling day-to-day symptoms like diarrhea and abdominal pain, it can cause long-term problems such as growth failure, missed school days and an inability to participate in extracurricular and social activities.

At Floating Hospital for Children, our gastroenterologists are well-versed on the many medications available to treat ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Plus, they continually stay up to date on the latest and most promising therapies.

What sets our program apart, though, is that we back our clinical expertise with a strong sense of compassion for and dedication to every patient. We understand what your child is going through — and do all we can to help him or her get better.

Here for you, every step of the way

If your child is experiencing symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease, we'll try to see him or her promptly. At your first visit to our clinic, we typically review your child's medical history, results of previous tests and any other information that your pediatrician provides. If necessary, we may conduct further diagnostic testing such as endoscopies and may seek the assistance of Floating Hospital radiologists and gastrointestinal pathologists.

Once we confirm a diagnosis, we discuss treatment options with you. Conventional treatments include anti-inflammatory and immune modulatory drugs along with antibiotics. We also may discuss clinical trials at Tufts Medical Center that offer access to promising new medications. In addition, we often refer families for a nutritional consultation.

As a parent, you probably have plenty of questions about inflammatory bowel disease and your child's treatment plan. So our program's physician assistant offers a teaching session for all parents of newly diagnosed patients. Keeping you informed is important to us, and we'll be here to answer your questions throughout your child's course of treatment.

Who else might be involved in your child's care?

Sometimes treating inflammatory bowel disease calls for a multidisciplinary approach. For example, Floating Hospital pediatric dietitians can lend their insight on dietary changes that can lessen your child's symptoms. We can also connect you with psychological support, which helps some children in dealing with their health challenges. Our nurses are available to help answer your questions and address your concerns via telephone.

Fortunately, kids usually don't require hospitalization for inflammatory bowel disease. We may treat severe cases with long-term regimens of injections or intravenous (IV) infusions at our hospital. And while we try to avoid surgery, we can work with Floating Hospital for Children colorectal surgeons and other surgical specialists to determine the right surgical approach for your child if necessary.

Dealing with inflammatory bowel disease isn't easy for kids or parents. But at Floating Hospital, we have the knowledge and experience to help your family get through it.

Seizure & Epilepsy Care Program

Overview



Helping Children Who Struggle with Seizures

Seizures and epilepsy in children are frightening experiences for a child and his or her family. At the Seizure & Epilepsy Program at Floating Hospital for Children in Boston, we understand. Our team of **top doctors** excels in finding the cause of your child's seizure(s), including epilepsy, and minimizing such incidents in the future.

Our program cares for patients ranging from the fetal stage through 19 years who have had seizures or have epilepsy. We primarily see patients at our **downtown Boston location**, but also collaborate with **Lawrence General Hospital** for EEG consultation. Our program, as well as the Pediatric Encephalography Laboratory, is under the direction of **Dr. Ju Tang, MD, PhD**, who trained at Beijing Medical University, Miami Children's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Boston Children's Hospital before coming to Floating Hospital for Children.

The **National Association of Epilepsy Centers** has recognized Tufts Medical Center as a Comprehensive Epilepsy Level 4 Center. This designation signifies that we have the "professional expertise and facilities to provide the highest level medical evaluation and treatment for patients with complex epilepsy."

What's Causing Your Child's Seizures?

During your first visit, we discuss your child's seizure(s) with you and perform a thorough physical and neurological examination. If your child has not already been diagnosed with epilepsy or another seizure disorder, we'll order tests.

Our team is highly skilled in conducting electroencephalogram (EEG) tests, which measure electrical activity in the brain and are helpful in confirming a diagnosis of epilepsy. If further testing is necessary, we may refer you to **Tufts MC experts in magnetic resonance imaging** (MRI) of the brain.

We also offer a long-term monitoring service, in which you and your child stay an average of two days in the hospital. This allows us to capture the seizure episodes and gather more information during the episodes to enhance diagnosis and management.

Our specialized experience allows us to make diagnoses where others cannot. Furthermore, Program Director **Ju Tang MD, PhD** also sees patients with Sleep Disorders, which gives us an advantage in distinguishing sleep disorders from seizure disorders.

Managing Seizures in Your Child

We work with you to determine the best treatment option for managing seizures in your child. Our most common approach is anti-seizure medications, which are often successful in managing seizures.

If medications do not help your child, we may consider options such as:

- **Ketogenic diet:** This special high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet helps control seizures in some people with epilepsy. It must be administered under professional guidance. We admit your child to initiate the treatment, observe him or her to confirm it is working safely and follow your child closely after discharge.
- **Vagal nerve stimulation:** This is another form of treatment that may be tried when medications fail to stop seizures. It involves implanting a pacemaker under the skin that sends small electrical pulses via the vagus nerve to the brain.
- **Surgery:** If we determine surgery to be the best option for preventing your child's seizures, we'll refer you to an epilepsy center with proper surgical expertise.
- **Experimental therapies:** Your child may benefit from taking part in a clinical trial offering access to promising new therapies. Participation is voluntary, of course.

If we can get your child's seizures under control, we'll continue to see him or her every three months and eventually every six months. More frequent visits will be necessary if his or her seizures begin occurring more often.

Follow-up for seizure management is very important. We need to monitor certain symptoms that may relate to the seizure or are potential side effects of antiepileptic medications. With some medications, we'll need to check blood tests to ensure proper medication levels. As your child grows and gains weight, we also need to adjust medication dosages.

Frequently Asked Questions from Parents



Doctors + Care Team



Research + Clinical Trials



Referring Physician Resources



Call Us
617-636-5356

How Can We Help You Today?

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REFER A PATIENT

[Back to top](#)

Overview

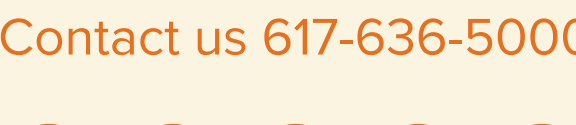
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