Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) surgery is surgery of the liver, pancreas and biliary system. Stomach cancer (aka gastric cancer) surgery is where a portion or all of the stomach is removed.

We have created a program where a team of specialists care for and create an individualized plan for each patient. Our team includes physicians with various specialties to ensure patients are seen by a provider specializing in their diagnosis. In addition to our physicians, our team based treatment includes: nutritional, pain management and surgical options. We recognize the critical part a patient’s primary health provider plays in the coordination of disease treatment and work to ensure you will be kept up to date on your patient’s progress throughout their treatment. Together, we have a unifying and common goal: To collaborate and coordinate in order to provide your patient the highest level of specialized care and restored health.
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HOW TO REFER
Please call 1.844.FOREGUT.

From the time you call our office to the time of treatment, the process will take two weeks.
» MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH

The HPB/Stomach Cancer team at University Surgical Associates and University Specialty Surgery Associates is a group of specialists who have extensive experience in treating patients with complex malignancies. Because we focus on specific cancers, we understand the many subtleties and nuances of the disease, which aids our team in providing patients with the most up-to-date and advanced treatment options.

Every patient in our program receives a multidisciplinary treatment plan. Committed to clinical excellence, our team includes surgical oncologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, hepatologists, Gastrointestinal specialists, transplant surgeons, and specialized diagnostic radiologists and pathologists.

These experts meet weekly to review and discuss each patient and ensure their treatment plan is specifically tailored to their individualized needs. We provide the full range of standard and innovative therapies.

» TREATMENT OPTIONS

Most patients with these cancers require several special types of treatments. The team works together to ensure all patient care is fully coordinated.

Surgery
For patients with early stage cancer, surgical removal of the tumor offers the best chance for a cure. Surgeons at University Specialty Surgery Associates and University Surgical Associates provide the full range of standard and advanced procedures, including minimally invasive/robotic surgeries for eligible patients.

Radiation Therapy
Radiation is an important element of treatment for many patients. Radiation oncologists work closely with other specialists to ensure a coordinated care path.

Chemotherapy
Newer advances in chemotherapy agents and treatment sequencing are contributing to improved outcomes for cancer patients. Chemotherapy is an essential part of cancer therapy.
Interventional Radiology
Minimally Invasive Interventional Radiology (IR) procedures can destroy liver tumors, deliver drugs and radiation directly to the site of the cancer, and set the stage for other treatments. Our IR team offers the full range of these treatments.

Transplantation
Patients with early liver cancer may be eligible for liver transplantation. We work closely with UCSF main campus’ transplant team to coordinate transplantation, if indicated.

Clinical Trials
Clinical trials are studies of new treatments and new ways of using existing treatments. Our cancer team is actively involved in national research programs offering patients access to new clinical treatment protocols.

» MANAGING SYMPTOMS
Many patients with these cancers may also have other co-morbidities. Our cancer specialists include physicians who specialize in managing such patients. Our Palliative care program provides support and services for patients with complex symptoms.

» SECOND OPINION PROGRAM
When you are diagnosed with any serious disease, it makes sense to get a second opinion. University Specialty Surgery Associates and University Surgical Associate’s cancer program gives patients fast access to physicians who specialize in complex malignancies. Our experienced team will evaluate your medical history and confirm your diagnosis and talk to you about your options and make sure you are receiving the most effective care for your condition.
» PANCREAS CANCER

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most complex and challenging cancers to treat due to the fact that symptoms are rarely present in early stages. As a result, Pancreatic cancer is usually diagnosed at a late stage and, typically, only ten to fifteen percent of pancreatic cancers are diagnosed when the patients are candidates for surgery.

Patients with pancreatic tumors frequently require several different kinds of treatment. The physicians in the pancreatic cancer team work together to provide a comprehensive and personalized treatment plan for each patient.

Patients with pancreatic tumors frequently require several different types of treatment.

» PANCREATIC CANCER SCREENING

Since the incidence of pancreatic cancer in the general population is low, with a life time risk of 1.3%, screening is not recommended for the general population. However, it is recommended for individuals considered to be at high risk of developing pancreatic cancer. High Risk individuals include:

- Patients with a family history of Pancreatic Cancer
- Genetic Mutation Carriers (Patients with: Peutz–Jeghers syndrome, familial atypical multiple mole melanoma syndrome, Lynch syndrome)
- Patients with Hereditary Pancreatitis

Screening should only be offered to individuals who are candidates for surgery.

» PANCREATITIS

Pancreatitis is inflammation or irritation of the pancreas. This condition usually begins as a sudden episode known as acute pancreatitis and, in some cases, may result in long-term damage after severe and/or recurrent attacks, known as chronic pancreatitis. Mild cases of pancreatitis may go away without treatment, but severe cases can cause life threatening complications, such as the formation of a pseudocyst infection, malnutrition and pancreatic cancer.
LIVER, GALLBLADDER AND BILE DUCT CANCER

» LIVER CANCER

The most common form of liver cancer is hepatocellular carcinoma, which begins in the native liver cells (hepatocytes). Other types of cells in the liver also can become cancerous. Due to the liver’s rich blood supply, cancers that begin in another area of the body, such as the GI tract, lung or breast can easily spread to the liver. These lesions are called metastatic cancers of the liver.

» GALLBLADDER CANCER

Gallbladder cancer is an uncommon disease that usually does not produce any symptoms at early stages. It may be found when the gallbladder is checked for gallstones or removed. When gallbladder cancer is discovered in its earliest stages, the chance for a cure is very good.

» BILE DUCT CANCER

Bile duct cancer is a rare but aggressive type of cancer that arises from the cells within the bile ducts, causing blockage of the bile flow from liver to the gut.

Due to the complexity of Liver, Gallbladder and Bile duct cancers, it is recommended that patients be seen by a program specializing in the treatment of such cancers. The surgeons of University Surgical Associates and University Specialty Surgery Associates are experienced and specialize in the treatment of these cancers.
Stomach cancer, also called gastric cancer, is the second leading cause of cancer death in the rest of the world, while becoming less common in the United States and Europe. Commonly, stomach cancer starts with the cancerous transformation of stomach cells. Stomach cancer can develop anywhere in the organ and spread to other parts of the body by growing beyond the stomach wall, entering the bloodstream or reaching the lymphatic system. Stomach cancer typically is a slow growing cancer and may not show symptoms for many years.

Dedicated to excellence, our team members provide the full range of therapies for gastric cancer. The team’s dedication to research and education ensures that patients have access to the latest advances in the treatment of gastric cancer.
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Babak Eghbalieh, M.D., FACS

Babak (Bobby) Eghbalieh, M.D., FACS is a board certified surgeon and specializes in General, Advanced Robotic and Laparoscopic (minimally invasive) surgery. He completed his General Surgery residency at the University of California, San Francisco, Fresno and his Pancreatic Surgery training at The Cleveland Clinic, Ohio.

Dr. Eghbalieh’s interests include Advanced Robotic and Laparoscopic General surgery, Oncologic surgery for the Pancreas, Gallbladder, Hepato-Biliary, Stomach and Foregut, Melanoma, and Retroperitoneal Sarcomas.

He serves as the Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) for the American College of Surgeons - Commission on Cancer for Community Medical Centers cancer program. He is also the Director of Robotic Surgery at Community Regional Medical Center.

He is an avid musician, and enjoys traveling around the world.
Amir Fathi, M.D.

Amir Fathi, M.D., is a board certified surgeon and specializes in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery.

Dr. Fathi completed his General Surgery residency at Case Western Reserve University and a Fellowship in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is also certified in Robotic Surgery.

Dr. Fathi’s practice includes surgical treatment of the following: primary and metastatic tumors of the Liver, Pancreas, Gallbladder, biliary tree, Stomach and foregut, surgical management of acute and chronic pancreatitis, complex abdominal wall reconstruction, minimally invasive hernia repair as well as General Surgery.

In his free time Dr. Fathi enjoys hiking, reading and swimming.