

**KATHERINE
MORGAN:**

Historically, pancreatic cancer has been one of the most challenging of the gastrointestinal cancers to treat. Over the past decade or so though, we've really seen some advancement and some new therapeutic options for these patients with pancreatic cancer. Many of them have been related to chemotherapy, but there have been some new surgical techniques and surgical options that have evolved. There's also been some exciting new advancements in basic science that are directed towards pancreatic cancer. So this is an exciting time to be treating patients with pancreatic cancer.

For patients with pancreatic cancer localized to the pancreatic head, we can offer, in many patients, pancreatic head resection. Classically, that was described by one of the fathers of pancreas surgery, Dr. Whipple. And so different variations of pancreatic head resection are often referred to-- by his name-- as the Whipple procedure.

A Whipple procedure refers to where we remove the head of the pancreas along with the blood supply, which includes the lymph nodes. And so, with that, we take a portion of the small bowel, and we take out the end of the bile duct as well.

Patients with pancreatic cancer who have localized disease and are amenable to a Whipple procedure who also undergo chemotherapy either before surgery or after surgery have the best outcomes with surgical therapy for pancreatic cancer.

In the modern era, in patients who are well-selected with localized pancreatic cancer that are able to undergo surgical treatment and complete all of their chemotherapy, they have the best outcomes long-term and upwards of-- with median survival of upwards of three years after surgery.

Over the past decade, we've really seen a lot of improvement in the different therapies that we're able to offer patients with pancreatic cancer. And so it's important for us to evaluate patients at all stages of disease to see what kind of therapeutic treatments we can offer them. I really feel like people that we weren't able to help five years ago, we really can help to live longer and to live a better quality of life with pancreatic cancer.