

BroadcastMed | NAPS2 Pancreatic Research Study

ANDRES GELRUD: We, at the University of Chicago, are part of the NAPS2 study, which is the largest pancreatic study group in the entire United States. The NAPS2 group-- it's a group that is led by Dr. David Whitcomb at the University of Pittsburgh who have had multiple major genetic discoveries that have led to much better understanding of the pancreas and some of its conditions. And I think that for us it's a privilege to be able to be working, not only with him, but with all of the other institutions. There is approximately 15 other institutions throughout the United States doing all of this innovative research. Some of this research, also, have helped us and other GI doctors to better understand some of the pancreatic diseases and how they behave, what the prognosis may be. And I do think that a significant amount of pancreatic [INAUDIBLE] conditions, it can be treated, and solved actually, at the level of a community doctor, a doctor that has a strong pancreatic interest. But some of these genetic conditions that are much more complex and complicated, some of them actually lead to debilitating abdominal pain that they may need to have the whole pancreas out. And we can actually do that and we can autologous transplantation of the better cells to prevent diabetes. Or patients that have diffuse causific disease, we have technologies, actually like extra corporeal shock wave lithotripsy, to treat these patients. Even more than that, we have superb surgeons that they know how to deal with benign pancreatic conditions that can operate these patients and provide long term pain relief. So it's a combination of everything in this multi-disciplinary approach, together with the referring doctors, that makes a better outcome for the patient.