The Oncology Services Team at Penn State Health St. Joseph...

Our affiliation with the Penn State Cancer Institute provides patients access to groundbreaking clinical research studies, advanced technology, and an expert team of academic medical center physicians to support the outstanding community-based doctors who provide care on our Bern Township campus. They are...

Dr. Marc Rovito
Medical Director, Medical Oncologist

Dr. Rovito is Board Certified in medical oncology and internal medicine. He received his medical degree from Temple University, and completed his residency in internal medicine and hematology and oncology fellowship at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He is an Assistant Professor within the Hematology-Oncology Department at Penn State Cancer Institute. Dr. Rovito is the Cancer Liaison Physician for St. Joseph Medical Center and plays an integral role in our cancer program accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC).

Dr. Navesh K. Sharma, Radiation Oncologist

Navesh K. Sharma, DO, Ph.D is a Board certified radiation oncologist, Section Chief of Radiation Oncology at Penn State Health St. Joseph Cancer Center and an Associate Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. He joined Penn State Health from the University of Maryland, having completed his residency in radiation oncology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Dr. Sharma, an expert in Y-90 SIRT liver-directed therapy is recognized nationally and internationally as an accomplished clinical trials principal investigator. He has implemented a wide array of the latest radiation treatment options to treat patients with common and rare forms of cancer, improving tumor targeting, and minimizing treatment side effects.

Dr. Ayodele Ayoola
Medical Oncologist/Hematologist

Ayodele Ayoola, M.D. is Board Certified in hematology, oncology, and internal medicine. He earned his medical degree at St. Matthews University School of Medicine and completed his residency at Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland and a Fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, where he is Assistant Professor, Dept. of Medicine, Division of Hematology-Oncology. He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Society of Hematology (ASH.)

To schedule an appointment with our oncologists or to learn more about the St. Joseph Cancer Center, call 610-378-2117 or visit thefutureofhealthcare.org.
Medical Oncology / Hematology Services

Dr. Marc A. Rovito, Medical Director of the Cancer Center, and Dr. Ayodele Ayoola, Medical Oncologist and Hematologist, guide the clinical and professional team in delivering care for adults with oncologic or hematologic conditions.

The team keeps abreast of promising drug therapies and incorporates these when tailoring a patient’s individual treatment plan.

The oncologists collaborate with their peers at academic medical centers to coordinate care for advanced treatment procedures, such as bone marrow transplant, which are best performed in larger academic institutions.

Radiation Oncology

The Radiation Oncology Department, under the clinical leadership of Dr. Navesh Sharma, uses advanced medical technology to design personalized treatment plans which deliver shaped, precise radiation doses to malignant tumors and areas at risk for cancer. Linear accelerator-based Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) delivers targeted, conformal treatment plans while minimizing radiation exposure to nearby healthy tissues. Image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) is used to confirm accurate patient and tumor target positioning so that higher radiation doses can be delivered safely and effectively. Patients with tumors that may have either started in the liver or have spread to the liver from other parts of the body may also benefit from Y-90 Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) minimally invasive treatment. During this outpatient procedure, the radiation oncologist works with an interventional radiologist to deliver a high dose of internal radiation directly to the liver tumor(s).

Access to the latest Clinical Research and Trials

Network membership enables our physicians and patients to participate in clinical cancer research through Penn State Cancer Institute and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) national cooperative groups. Our team identifies medical and radiation oncology trial opportunities for our cancer patient population using standard of care technologies and drugs or novel therapies otherwise not available in a community hospital setting.

Patient and Family Support Programs

The oncology services team works with patients and family members who need social support or assistance coping with their cancer diagnosis. Our team of physicians, nurses, care managers, chaplains, navigators, rehabilitation specialists, psychosocial counselors, social workers, radiation therapists, nutritionists, financial counselors, home health care and palliative medicine caregivers coordinate resources while they care for the patient’s physical, emotional, financial, social, spiritual and practical needs.

Palliative Medicine is a medical subspecialty which deals with serious illness, where the focus is on goals, quality of life, and communication. The Outpatient Palliative Medicine program, under the leadership of Dr. Teresa Mercurio, offers support, symptom and pain management, and provides an opportunity to discuss goals of care, advance directives, and decision-making options.

Support groups provide a way for cancer patients to share experiences and encourage each other. “Strength for the Journey” is a support group for all cancer patients. Kids Konnected provides emotional support and camaraderie for children dealing with the anxiety created by a family member’s cancer diagnosis. Our Spiritual Care chaplains provide support to patients and staff and to bereaved families, and our Cancer Center hosts a memorial service to honor the lives of those who have lost their lives to cancer.

Cancer Risk Evaluation Program (CREP)

Our Cancer Risk Evaluation Program (CREP) experts can assist in developing a realistic opinion of your risk for developing breast, ovarian, colorectal and other hereditary cancers. Our CREP coordinator, Donna Lamp, RN, BSN, CCM, and medical director, Dr. Marc Rovito, work collaboratively with Penn State HERSHEY medical geneticists and your physicians to create a ‘cancer-incidence pedigree’ and offer recommendations for follow-up and risk reduction strategies.

Multidisciplinary Care Clinics

The Cancer Center hosts weekly general Cancer Conferences and Multidisciplinary Breast Care and Multidisciplinary Lung Clinics. Physician specialists from Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Radiology, Pathology, Pulmonary Medicine, and Thoracic Surgery are present, as applicable, for all patient case presentations. The patients’ attending physicians are also invited to participate.

The multidisciplinary clinic format provides each patient with coordinated physician evaluations, additional diagnostic testing recommendations, follow-up physician appointments, and consensus treatment recommendations in one session, while the patient and her family are present. The multidisciplinary breast care clinic is available for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, or for a second opinion. The multidisciplinary lung clinic discussion centers around patients who have an abnormal benign or cancerous lung finding.

St. Joe’s Oncology, Breast Care and Lung Patient Navigators support and guide patients through diagnosis, treatment, recovery and survivorship.

The Journey to Survivorship

With sophisticated technology and compassionate hearts, we journey with you on the road to survivorship.

The survivorship care plan incorporates evidence-based standards of care and provides a guide for transitioning from active treatment through survivorship. Take C.A.R.E. (Cancer and Rehabilitative Exercise) is an example of a St. Joe’s survivorship program, which is held regularly to teach breast cancer survivors how to exercise safely after treatment.

Commitment to Patient and Staff Education

Appropriate educational information is important in empowering the patient and their family to be active participants in the treatment process. We use evidence-based standards and recognized guidelines of the Oncology Nursing Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and other recognized organizations to develop practices which guide patient care.