

# BILE DUCT CANCER

## TYPES OF BILE DUCT CANCER:

Cancer can occur in any type of the bile duct. Doctors identify the type of bile duct cancer by the location of the tumor in the body:

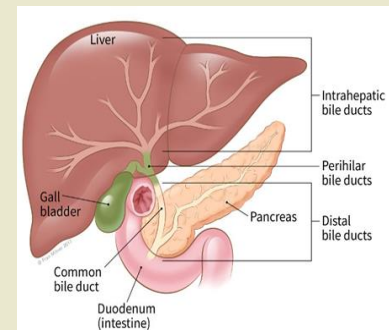
- 1) **Extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.** The part of the bile duct that is located outside of the liver is called "extrahepatic." This location is where bile duct cancer is most commonly found. It tends to be the most treatable form of the disease.
- 2) **Hilar cholangiocarcinoma.** Another relatively common site for bile duct cancer is the point where the right and left hepatic ducts join. A tumor that starts in this area is also sometimes called a Klatskin's tumor.
- 3) **Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.** About 5% to 10% of bile duct cancers are "intrahepatic." These are located inside the liver.

## RISK FACTORS:

- 1) *Cirrhosis*- cirrhosis is usually caused by hepatitis, viruses, and/or alcohol consumption
- 2) *Age* – risk increases as you age
- 3) *Liver fluke infections*- more common in southeast Asia
- 4) *Certain chemicals* such as dioxins, nitrosamines, and polychlorinated biphenyls. Those who have worked in rubber plants and automotive industries at increased risk

## SIGNS + SYMPTOMS

- JAUNDICE
- ITCHING
- UNEXPLAINED WEIGHT LOSS
- LOSS OF APPETITE
- FEVER
- ABDOMINAL PAIN



## DIAGNOSIS:

- **Blood chemistry tests.** Blood chemistry tests measure the levels of bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase and check other liver functions. High levels of these substances could indicate that the bile duct is not working well.
- **Tumor marker tests (CEA and CA19-9).** Tumor marker tests look for higher-than-normal amounts of certain substances in the blood, urine, or tissues of people with certain types of cancer. Bile duct cancer may cause high levels of carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) and CA19-9 in the blood. However, a person can have bile duct cancer even if there are normal levels of these tumor markers. Also, there are diseases other than cancer that sometimes cause high levels of these substances.
- **Imaging:** Including ultrasound, computed tomography CT scan, magnetic resonance MRI scan, angiography
- **Biopsy.** A biopsy is the removal of a small amount of tissue for examination under a microscope. A pathologist then analyzes the sample(s) and comes up with the diagnosis based on findings.

## TREATMENT:

- 1) **Surgical removal** of the bile duct: the surgeon removes the entire organ. This is a treatment option only if the tumor has not spread beyond the bile duct.
- 2) **Medications** including: chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and/or immunotherapy

## FOLLOW UP:

\*Follow up regularly with your treating physician for routine monitoring

## Resources:

- 1) ASCO.org
  - 2) Cancer.org
- \*More information can be found at above website