

# Roles of Cancer Medical Practitioners



## **Anaesthetist**

Their primary responsibility is to administer anaesthesia during surgery. This includes carefully monitoring the patient's vital signs and adjusting the anaesthesia level to ensure the patient remains pain-free, sedated, and safe throughout the procedure. The anaesthetist collaborates closely with the surgical team to customise the anaesthesia plan based on the patient's specific needs, the type of surgery, and any existing medical conditions. They also manage the patient's post-operative pain and recovery, contributing to a smoother and more comfortable healing process for cancer patients undergoing surgery or related treatments.

## **Dermatologist**

A doctor who specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of skin conditions, including skin cancer. They perform skin exams, biopsies, and may provide treatments such as surgical excision, cryotherapy, or topical therapies for skin cancers, like melanoma, or basal cell carcinoma.

## **Genetic Counsellor**

A professional who specialises in assessing and counselling individuals and families about their risk of inherited cancer. They help patients understand the potential genetic factors influencing their cancer risk and provide guidance for appropriate screening or preventative measures.

## **Gynaecologic Oncologist**

A specialist who focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of cancers specific to the female reproductive system, such as ovarian, cervical, uterine, and vulvar cancers. They perform surgeries and may provide chemotherapy or other treatments tailored to gynaecologic cancers.

## **Haematologist/Oncologist**

These specialists specialise in the diagnosis and treatment of cancers related to the blood and bone marrow, such as leukaemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma. They may provide chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, or stem cell transplantation.

# Roles of Cancer Medical Practitioners



## **Interventional Radiologist**

These doctors use medical imaging techniques, such as ultrasound, CT scan, or MRI, to guide minimally invasive procedures to diagnose and treat certain cancers. They may perform biopsies, insert catheters for targeted therapies, or deliver localised treatments directly to tumours.

## **Medical Oncologist**

A doctor who specialises in the systemic treatment of cancer using medications, such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, or hormone therapy. They develop personalised treatment plans based on the specific type and stage of cancer.

## **Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant**

These healthcare providers work closely with the oncology team, aiding in patient care, providing education, performing procedures, and offering support throughout the cancer journey.

## **Nutritionist/Dietician**

These specialists provide guidance on maintaining proper nutrition during cancer treatment, addressing the nutritional needs and challenges specific to each individual's diagnosis and treatment plan.

## **Pain Management Specialist**

These healthcare providers focus on the management of cancer-related pain. They work closely with the oncology team to develop personalised pain management plans, using various techniques such as medications, nerve blocks, or complementary therapies.

## **Palliative Care Specialist**

These healthcare professionals focus on providing relief from symptoms and improving the quality of life for individuals with cancer. They address pain management, psychological support, and help patients navigate through the challenges of treatment and end-of-life care.

## **Pathologist**

A doctor who examines tissue samples and cells under a microscope to diagnose cancer. They play a crucial role in determining the type, grade, and stage of cancer based on the characteristics of the cancer cells.

# Roles of Cancer Medical Practitioners



## **Psychologist/Psychiatrist**

Mental health professionals who offer psychological support and counselling to help patients cope with the emotional and psychological impact of cancer. They may address anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns that can arise during the cancer journey.

## **Radiologist**

A physician who interprets medical imaging tests, such as X-rays, CT scans, MRIs, or PET scans. They play a vital role in diagnosing and monitoring cancer, providing detailed images to help guide treatment decisions.

## **Radiation Oncologist**

A specialist who uses radiation therapy to treat cancer. They determine the appropriate dosage and delivery of radiation to target and destroy cancer cells, while minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissues.

## **Social Worker**

These professionals offer emotional support and assistance in navigating the social and emotional challenges that may arise during cancer treatment. They provide resources, counselling, and help connect patients with support groups or community services.

## **Surgeon**

A doctor who specialises in surgical procedures. In the context of cancer, a surgeon may perform surgeries such as tumour removal, lymph node dissection, or reconstructive procedures following cancer treatment.

## **Urologist**

A doctor who specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions related to the urinary system, including cancers such as bladder, kidney, and prostate cancer. They may perform surgeries, prescribe medications, and provide ongoing management of urological cancers.