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Licking Memorial Health Systems

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***Please take a few minutes to read
this month's report on patient
care quality. You'll soon discover
why Licking Memorial Hospital
has been named one of the
nation's Top 100 Hospitals for
three consecutive years!***



**Licking Memorial
Health Systems**

September 2001
Volume 2
Number 9

**Cancer
Care**

measurably
different
for your
health!



HEALTH TIPS

Choosing a healthy lifestyle and environment can help reduce your risk for cancer. Cancer prevention includes:

- **Stay active through regular physical activity.**
- **Know your environmental and occupational risks.**
- **Quit smoking.**
- **Watch your diet.**
- **Avoid getting sunburned.**

...a community report on patient care quality.



How do we compare?

At Licking Memorial Hospital, we take pride in the care we provide. To monitor the quality of that care, we track specific quality measures and compare them to benchmark measures. Then we publish them so you can draw your own conclusions regarding your health care choices.

1 If you have a mammogram, you want to be confident that it is interpreted accurately. Specificity is a measure of the accuracy of mammography interpretation related to normal, or negative, results. Sensitivity is a measure of the accuracy of mammography interpretation related to abnormal, or positive, results.

	LMH ⁽¹⁾	National ⁽²⁾
Specificity	96%	>90%
Sensitivity	98%	>85%

2 Sometimes a radiologist will recommend a biopsy after a mammogram is read. To be accredited for mammography, health care organizations are required to look at the number of cases recommended for biopsy that result in cancer diagnosis – called the positive predictive value. This helps monitor the accuracy of the radiology interpretations.

	LMH ⁽¹⁾	National Recommended Range ⁽²⁾
Positive Predictive Value	31%	25% – 40%

3 Cancers of the lung, mouth, larynx, bladder, kidney, cervix, esophagus, and pancreas are related to tobacco use, and smoking alone causes one-third of all cancer deaths. One way to measure the effectiveness of a smoking cessation program is to monitor smoke-free rates of participants after one year.

	LMH 2000	LMH 2001 ⁽³⁾	National ⁽⁴⁾	LMH Goal
Percentage Smoke-free at One Year	22%	50%	28.6%	>45%

4 LMH follows a rigorous five-step safety procedure to prevent chemotherapy medication errors. As a result, in giving approximately 4500 doses per year, we have never had a chemotherapy medication error.

	LMH 2000	LMH 2001 ⁽³⁾	LMH Goal
Number of Chemotherapy Medication Errors	0	0	0

5

For a cancer care program to be approved by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, the hospital must hold multidisciplinary, patient-oriented treatment planning conferences at least monthly. The goal of this requirement is to increase the number of cases that are reviewed while patient care can still be influenced.

Number of Meetings Monthly	
LMH	Accreditation Standard
2	1
Cases Reviewed While Patient Care Can Still Be Influenced	
LMH	Accreditation Standard
95%	>51%

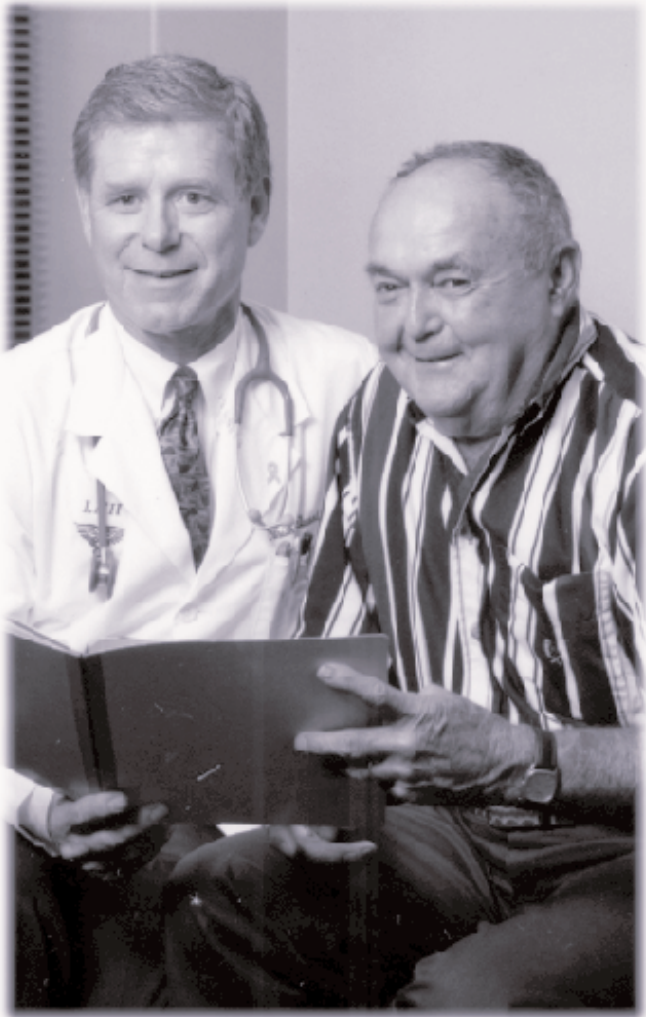
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Another requirement for cancer care program approval is that a hospital have a minimum percentage of its newly diagnosed and/or treated cancer patients entered in clinical trials.

Percentage of Newly Diagnosed and/or Treated Patients in Clinical Trials	
LMH 1999	LMH 2000
6.1%	3%
Accreditation Standard	
>2%	

Data Footnotes:

- (1) Data is from April 1999 through March 2000.
- (2) Quality Determinates of Mammography, Clinical Practice Guide #13, AHCPR Publication No. 95-0632
- (3) LMH data for January through June 2001.
- (4) American Lung Association of Ohio.



Dr. Patrick Elwood reviews a chemotherapy treatment schedule with patient, Lyle King.

“It makes you feel so good when the people here are so concerned with your health and well-being. They’re so cautious with you, and they do such a good job.”

He’s beating Cancer

A PATIENT’S STORY

Since Lyle King felt just fine when he went to his family doctor for a regular check-up, he didn’t expect that Pete Dils, M.D., would find anything wrong. The check-up included testing for hemocult blood in the stool; and when those results came back, Dr. Dils noticed an abnormality and referred Lyle to gastroenterologist Edward Partyka, M.D., for more testing.

“I had had no symptoms at all of having anything wrong,” Lyle said. “It astonished me when Dr. Partyka called me to have a colonoscopy. But when he did it, he found cancer.”

Dr. Partyka worked with general surgeon Larry Pasley, M.D., to make arrangements for surgery at Licking Memorial Hospital, and in early December of 2000, Dr. Pasley removed eight inches of Lyle’s colon. Since the cancer had been caught early, Dr. Pasley was able to reattach the colon to restore normal function.

Once Lyle recovered from surgery, he began taking chemotherapy under the direction of oncologist Patrick Elwood, M.D., as a cautionary measure to kill any stray cancer cells. He receives a treat-

ment once each week for six weeks, then has two weeks off. He has completed five of these cycles and is just beginning his sixth, and final cycle of treatment.

“I’ve felt great through almost everything,” Lyle said. “Right after the operation I felt great. The chemo isn’t fun, but for me, it hasn’t been terrible.” Lyle has had limited side effects. He didn’t lose his hair, and he was only nauseated once—medication took care of that right away. Lyle owns an excavation contracting business in Granville, and he’s been able to keep his business running well, too.

“Most days, I take my chemo treatments, go home and put my work clothes on, and go right back to work,” he said. He gives much of the credit for the success of his treatment and his good health during therapy to the staff at LMH.

“I can’t say enough for these people,” he concluded. “It makes you feel so good when the people here are so concerned with your health and well-being. They’re so cautious with you, and they do such a good job. They all had to be hand-picked by God.”

Come To **MEDICAL MONDAYS**

Early detection

examinations and tests can help save lives and reduce suffering from many types of cancer. *Every Monday in October, LMH will offer cancer education and screenings FREE of charge.*

Learn what you can do to protect yourself, and take advantage of free screenings – come to Medical Mondays at LMH!

Time / Location:

All Medical Mondays are held at 7 p.m. in LMH Conference Rooms A and B.

October 1st

Breast Cancer & Screening

Jacqueline Jones, M.D.

October 8th

Prostate Cancer & Screening

Gregory LaNouette, M.D.

October 15th

Colon Cancer & Screening

Edward Partyka, M.D.

October 22nd

Lung Cancer

William Rawlinson, M.D.

October 29th

Cervical Cancer

Lori Elwood, M.D.



Advances in Cancer Treatment Bring New Hope, Better Lives

with Dr. Patrick Elwood

OVER THE LAST DECADE, CANCER CARE HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES FORWARD, OFFERING PATIENTS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AS WELL AS PROLONGATION OF LIFE FOR MANY. AT LICKING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PATIENTS HAVE ACCESS TO NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF COMPLETE CANCER CARE, INCLUDING MANY NEW TREATMENTS AND PROCEDURES USUALLY AVAILABLE ONLY AT LARGER HOSPITALS.

“At this hospital, patients can receive every form of cancer treatment, short of bone marrow transplants,” said oncologist/hematologist Patrick Elwood, M.D., “including radiation treatment, chemotherapy, and surgery. Treatment is given in a hospital setting with certified oncology nurses and an oncologist present, which is an unusual and very safe way to administer it.”

In addition to standard cancer treatments, Licking Memorial Hospital patients may also opt to participate in clinical trials that offer some of the newest ways to treat cancer. (See Clinical Trials below.)

“The exciting advances in oncology treatment are directed therapies that specifically target tumor cells,” Dr. Elwood said. “For example, we have developed antibodies that are directed against proteins found primarily on tumor cells. These

new drugs attack just the cancer cells, which translates into improved responses and fewer side effects, as the side effects of most drugs result from the lack of a specific effect on the tumor.” He noted that 95% of patients who receive a new treatment for leukemia which targets just the leukemia cells go into remission, with almost no side effects.

There are also fewer side effects with many other types of cancer treatments today because of improvements in both the drugs themselves and in the drugs used to counter side effects.

“I came from the National Institutes of Health to LMH just a year ago,” Dr. Elwood said, “because I can offer the same standard and level of care that I was able to offer at the National Cancer Institute, including offering patients the latest advances in cancer treatment.”

Clinical Trials: Advanced Treatments, Local Care

The most advanced cancer treatments available are often found through clinical trials, which are research studies conducted with people who have cancer or who may get cancer. Although many clinical trials are offered only in large metropolitan hospitals, cancer patients at Licking Memorial Hospital have access to the same studies conducted at the largest hospitals—through the Columbus Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP). CCOP is a consortium of 12 area hospitals with over 100 participating doctors. It brings state-of-the-art cancer treatment and prevention programs to

local doctors and the communities they serve, allowing individuals to remain in their own communities while receiving the latest and best in cancer screening, diagnostic care, and treatment plans.

Local CCOP research nurse Kathi Hayward, R.N., explained that each clinical trial has specific criteria for eligibility, and participation is entirely voluntary.

“Patients taking part in clinical trials may be helped personally by the treatment they receive,” Kathi said. “Plus, the results from the study may lead to better cancer treatment and help other people in the future.”