

## Implications for Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer

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Pancreatic cancer (PC) remains one of the deadliest cancers in the United States with very poor outcomes. In 2019, it is estimated that 56,770 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the US and more than 45,750 will die of the disease. It is expected to become the second leading cause of cancer related deaths by 2020 and currently has a 5-year overall survival rate of 8.5% for all stages combined. PC is a relatively chemo resistant tumor with limited treatment options. One of the explanations for this is attributed to desmoplasia that impedes drug delivery.

Three types of precursor lesions are known to precede invasive biliary adenocarcinoma.

The phylogenesis of pancreatic cancer is much more complex than originally thought. It may indeed be a combination of stromal modifying agents as well as other strategies to overcome chemoresistance to better fight pancreatic cancer. Further studies in molecular biology to better characterize the complex interaction between the microenvironment and cancer cells are warranted.

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