Asian Americans and Cancer

- Cancer is the #1 leading cause of death among Asian Americans.
- Compared to other ethnic groups, Asian Americans have one of the lowest screening rates.
- Cancer affects Asian Americans in many ways:
  - The rates of new liver cancer cases among Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese groups are 1.7 to 11.3 times higher than Caucasians.
  - Filipinos have the 2nd lowest 5-year survival rates for colon and rectal cancers of all U.S. ethnic groups.
  - Lung cancer rates among Southeast Asians is 18% higher than Caucasians.
  - Vietnamese American women are 5 times more likely than Caucasian women to have cervical cancer.

REMEMBER

More tissue sample donations increases the chances of finding cures and treatments for Asian Americans. Speak with your doctor or a researcher today to learn more about donating.

For more information (English only):

www.aancart.org
- Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (AANCART)

www.aancart.org/apicem-web-tool
- Asian Pacific Islander Cancer Education Materials Tool (APICEM)

biospecimens.cancer.gov
- NCI Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources
- NCI Patient Corner

pluto3.nci.nih.gov/tissue
- NCI Specimen Resource Locator

cahub.cancer.gov
- The Cancer Human Biobank

Keep Asian Americans healthy for generations to come...

Donate your biospecimens today

The National Center for Reducing Asian American Cancer Health Disparities

Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training Honolulu • Sacramento • San Francisco • Seattle • Los Angeles
What are biospecimens?

Biospecimens are materials taken from the body. This can be blood, hair, nails, saliva, skin, tissue or urine. These materials from the body can be used by scientists to understand how disease affects the body and from that understanding, more effective treatments could be developed.

Why is donating biospecimens important?

Biospecimens contain information that can be used to:
- help find new ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat conditions like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease
- study diseases that are passed on in families
- determine if and how people respond to treatments
- help develop tests and treatments that are more effective for more people

Studying biospecimens helps doctors answer these questions:
- Why does it develop?
- How does it grow?
- Who has a higher chance of developing it?

What is informed consent?

For biospecimen collection, informed consent is when the person understands what the research is about and agrees to donate. The potential donor must understand the:
- collection process
- benefits and risks of donating
- other options besides donating

Donating is voluntary and will not affect care. All donor information is kept private and will only be shared with researchers.

Did you know?

Doctors do not have enough biospecimen samples from Asian Americans to study diseases like cancer. Most studies and treatments were developed or tested using the Caucasian populations. Researchers need to compare different populations to see if findings are the same or not.

What happens after the research is completed?

Research takes a long time and results may not be ready for many years. As a donor, a person usually does not receive results from the research.

How are biospecimen donations collected?

A trained medical staff member will collect the sample:
- as leftover tissue from surgery,
- as extra samples during a routine blood test, or
- at a community blood drive

For blood donations, the body will replace the blood that was donated. The samples will get stored in a biorepository which is like a library for samples. Here, scientists can use the samples for research purposes.

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