Interventional Oncology

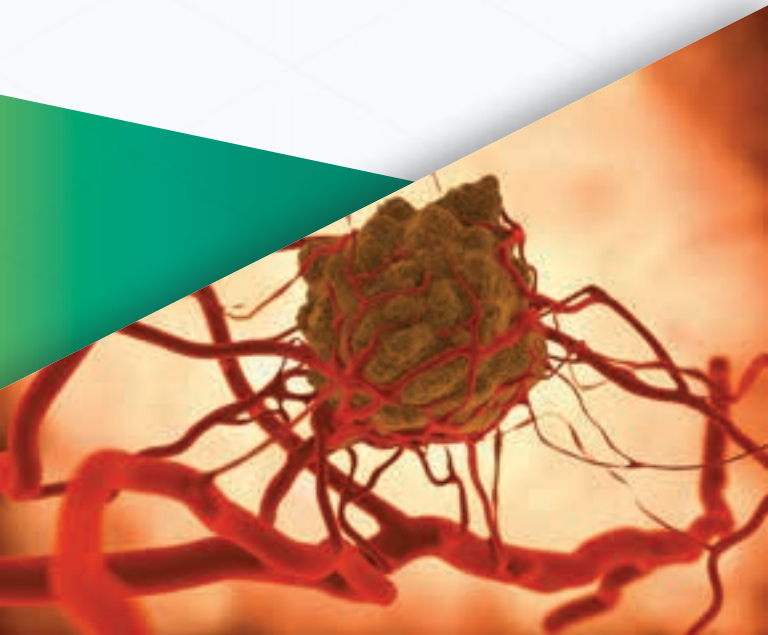
Minimally invasive cancer treatment

NORTH STAR
VASCULAR & INTERVENTIONAL

NEW OPTIONS for treating primary and metastatic liver cancer

Tumors in the liver can be *primary* (within the liver only) or *secondary* (metastatic or having spread from another area of the body to the liver). Once there, the cancer cells may grow for months or years before they are detected. The most common sources of metastatic liver cancer are from tumors of the colon and rectum, although it can also happen as a result of breast, esophageal, stomach, pancreatic, lung, kidney and skin cancer.

Surgical removal of liver tumors offers the best chance for a cure. Unfortunately, this may not be possible because the tumors have become too large, or they have grown into major blood vessels or other vital structures. Sometimes, many small tumors are spread throughout the liver, making surgery too risky or impractical. In fact, surgical removal is not possible for more than two-thirds of primary liver cancer patients and 90 percent of patients with secondary liver cancer.



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State-of-the-art treatment in a convenient outpatient center

All interventional oncology procedures—including Y-90 radioembolization—are performed in our convenient outpatient center in Minneapolis. In addition to easier access and a more patient-focused environment, there is less risk of infection as well as lower overall costs for your procedure and care.

New and minimally invasive options

Tumors need a blood supply, which they actively generate, in order to feed themselves and grow. The specially trained doctors at North Star Vascular & Interventional are uniquely skilled in using the vascular system to deliver targeted treatments via a catheter throughout the body. In treating cancer patients, our interventional radiologists use non-surgical localized techniques—guided in real-time by diagnostic imaging—to attack the cancerous tumor from inside the body without affecting other parts of the body. These techniques include:

Embolization | A procedure to cut off the blood supply feeding the tumor, using medications or synthetic materials called embolic agents.

Radioembolization | Also referred to as "Y-90" radioembolization, this procedure uses special microparticles to deliver targeted radiation to the tumor—in addition to cutting off its blood supply.

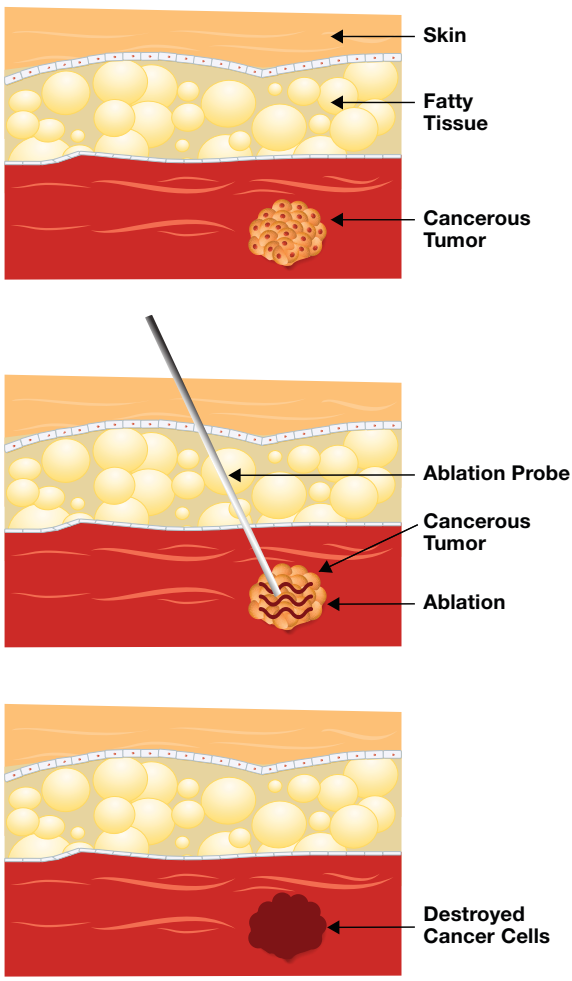
Chemoembolization | Similar to radioembolization, this technique uses microparticles coated with chemotherapy drugs instead of radiation.

Ablation | A series of procedures that use heat (thermal ablation), extreme cold (cryoablation) and radiofrequency energy (RF ablation) to directly destroy tumor cells.

Each of these techniques is very precise, delivering targeted treatment to the tumor while minimizing damage to healthy surrounding tissue. Since every patient is different, the procedure we use depends on your unique circumstances.

Image-guided biopsies

For patients who have been told they have a mass that is difficult to biopsy, an image-guided biopsy may be needed. Using diagnostic imaging, an interventional radiologist can guide a biopsy needle precisely where it needs to go for the most accurate diagnosis possible. An alternative to surgical biopsy, image-guided biopsies require a smaller incision, and result in little or no scarring and a faster recovery.



North Star Vascular & Interventional

The doctors at NSVI are pioneers in interventional radiology. Hailing from some of the region's most prestigious healthcare and academic institutions, they were among the first to perform certain imaging-guided procedures in the United States. They have also trained hundreds of radiologists worldwide in the field of Interventional Oncology.

NSVI offers the full range of minimally invasive vascular and interventional radiology services, including cancer treatment, at their state-of-the-art Minneapolis-based outpatient center. Cancer, spine fractures, uterine fibroids, knee osteoarthritis and vascular disease can be treated faster, less expensively and with greater precision and safety than ever before.

To learn more, visit NorthStarIR.com.

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