

Providence Thoracic Oncology Program Data

The Providence Thoracic Oncology Program (TOP) began in the late 1990s under the leadership of John R. Handy, M.D., Rachel E. Sanborn, M.D., joined the program as co-medical director. The program comprises of a team of doctors, nurses, social workers and researchers striving to provide and promote the best possible care for people with cancers of the chest.

Lung cancer experts meet weekly at two multidisciplinary thoracic tumor conferences to review cases and provide treatment options to patients. The Monday conference is now available via videoconference to providers outside the Portland area.

The most current market share information from 2007 testifies to the fact TOP treats more lung cancer patients than any other health system in the Northwest. (See attached PowerPoint presentation.)

Patients and referring physicians need ready access to quality indicators when making decisions about surgical and oncology care. At Providence TOP, we publish information every year on how we meet or exceed national benchmarks for common surgeries, such as lobectomy and pneumonectomy. At the same time, we share evidence on how we are improving patients' quality of life with innovative and minimally invasive video-assisted thoracic surgeries.

Given the large number of thoracic surgeries we perform, Providence is in a unique position to be the Northwest's quality leader. We track outcomes for all chest surgeries performed in our medical centers. Our TOP oncology surgeons participate in quarterly quality-assessment meetings where treatment patterns are evaluated based on statistical data and evidence-based medical research. By monitoring our operative complications and mortality, we strive to outperform national standards in patient care and the surgical treatment of chest diseases.

Link: [PowerPoint / PDF](#)

For more information on the TOP, to refer a patient or to contact physician leaders, contact the coordinator of program support at cathy.betzer@providence.org or 503-215-6724.

John R. Handy, M.D., and Rachel E. Sanborn, M.D., Co-Medical Directors