

About Us

As a group we are committed to the active support of pancreatitis patients, their families and their carers.

All of us have been or are pancreatitis sufferers, so we know from experience what the condition entails.

For further details on telephone support and advice, please contact:

Pauline Maughan at 01670 221591
or e-mail pancreasnorth@hotmail.com
and we will add you to our distribution list.

Information on forthcoming fundraising events and general meetings can be found on our website.

All donations go towards research and related help with pancreatitis.

Pancreas North
Pancreatitis Patients Support Group

*Please visit our
website for more
information at*

www.pancreasnorth.co.uk

or visit us on



Supporting Pancreatitis sufferers
in the North East and Cumbria

www.pancreasnorth.co.uk

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Pancreas North is a support
group based at the world
renowned Freeman Hospital

www.pancreasnorth.co.uk

About Pancreatitis

In the UK, up to 45,000 people live with chronic pancreatitis and around 12,000 people contract acute pancreatitis each year, although pancreatitis is more common in men than women.

Most attacks are caused by gallstones that block the flow of pancreatic enzymes or by excessive amount of alcohol.

Other causes of acute pancreatitis are:

- Infections, including mumps
- Some medicines
- Injury
- High triglycerides

However sometimes, the cause is unknown.

Acute Pancreatitis

The most common symptom of acute pancreatitis is pain as almost all sufferers of acute pancreatitis experience pain.

The pain may come on suddenly or gradually, but if the pain begins suddenly, it is more commonly more severe. If the pain builds up more gradually however, it increases in its severity. This pain is commonly centered in the upper middle to upper left part of the belly (in the abdomen).

The pain is often described as if it radiates from the front of the abdomen through to the back.

- The pain often begins or worsens after eating
- The pain typically lasts a few days
- The pain may feel worse when a person lies flat on his/her back.

Symptoms include:

- Nausea and in some cases vomiting
- Fever, chills or both
- A swollen and tender abdomen

Chronic Pancreatitis

Pain is less common in chronic pancreatitis as some people experience pain, though many do not.

For those who have pain, it is usually constant and may be disabling but the pain often goes away as the condition worsens. This lack of pain is a bad sign as it often indicates that the pancreas has stopped working.

Other symptoms relate to long term complications like:

- The development of diabetes
- The inability to digest food leading to weight loss and nutritional deficiencies
- Bleeding (low blood count, or anaemia)
- Liver difficulties

Hereditary Pancreatitis Symptoms

A rare inherited condition often leads to chronic pancreatitis due to the scarring of the pancreas. Main symptoms include:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Nauseas | Diarrhoea |
| Vomiting | Weight loss |
| Abdominal pain | |