UAB Medicine is pleased to announce a new program that is the only one of its kind in Birmingham and Northeast Alabama. Cardio-Oncology is a multidisciplinary field focusing on the management and prevention of cardiovascular complications in cancer patients and survivors. This unique, subspecialized program is led by a team of cardiologists, oncologists and researchers who specialize in the coordinated care of oncology patients and survivors with cardiovascular disease or cardiac risk factors. One of the main goals of the program is to identify patients with cancer who may be at an increased risk for cancer-treatment-related cardiotoxicity.

Our comprehensive program provides care for:

- Patients who may develop cardiac side effects from traditional cancer therapies, such as anthracyclines and radiation or targeted cancer therapies. Traditional risk factors include advancing age, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, previous vascular disease, low cardiac function and/or valvular heart disease.
- The cardio-oncology program works closely with UAB cancer survivorship programs and cancer rehabilitation specialists to return survivors to a high quality of life and improve the cardiac outcomes.
- Patients with existing cardiovascular issues who have newly diagnosed cancer. The cardio-oncologist team works closely with the primary cancer team to safely shepherd each patient through the medical and surgical treatment for their cancer.
- With such innovative techniques as strain echocardiography, cardiac MRI, angiography, nuclear imaging and cardiac biomarkers, we identify cancer patients at high risk for cardiovascular complications and work to minimize potential cardiotoxicity. Through the use of cardioprotective medications and close monitoring, patients receive necessary chemotherapeutic agents while minimizing their risk for developing heart disease.

Why is this program needed at UAB?

The goal of the program is to improve cardiovascular outcomes in cancer patients. Heart disease in cancer survivors is the second leading cause of death behind recurrent cancer, and thus cardio-oncology programs are well-suited to help cancer survivors assess cardiac risk factors, prevent future cardiac problems and ultimately improve overall quality of life. When a patient is diagnosed with cancer, the patient needs timely coordination of care. The UAB Cardio-Oncology team can help facilitate timely evaluation and diagnostic testing.

For Referring Physicians

Our faculty is committed to providing immediate consultations and care for your patients. For physician-to-physician consultations, or to refer your patient, please call UAB MIST at 800.UAB.MIST (800.822-6478.)

The UAB Cardio-Oncology Program is located at The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital, 2000 6th Avenue South, Birmingham, Ala., 35233

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