



**Let's Go Farther
Leaving Cancer
Behind.**

Caritas Cancer Institute

An Introduction

A Beginning that Breathed Hope in Many Lives.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

It was in the late 90s that our visionary, the then Metropolitan Mar Kuriakose Kunnasserry, Archeparchy of Kottayam Diocese, felt the need for a specialized cancer treatment centre in Central Kerala. With limited treatment facilities in the Government Hospitals in Kerala at that time, cancer patients had to wait for many months to get a proper treatment. This often led to worsening and progression of their condition, leading to an incurable status. While the rich could travel to different places to seek expert care, the poor and mediocre people were helpless. An affordable and reliable cancer centre for all became the then need of the hour. Hence, he envisioned a full-fledged Cancer Centre and took steps to build it in the Caritas Hospital Campus. It began functioning in January 2000, initially with Surgical Oncology department alone.



THE PROGRESS

Under the direct supervision of Metropolitan Mar Kuriakose Kunnasserry, the then Director Rev. Fr. Simon Pazhukayil and Rev. Fr. Jacob Kollapampil, a new and wider project - Caritas Cancer Institute was designed. Foundation stone for the new project was laid on 24th February 2002 and fund was made available through the generous contribution of the Laity of Kottayam Archdiocese, the Italian Bishops Conference and various congregations of the Kottayam Archdiocese. Caritas Cancer Institute was inaugurated by Metropolitan Mar Kuriakose Kunnasserry on 24th February 2003.



HOW FAR WE HAVE COME

Caritas Cancer Institute became the first-of-its-kind centre, exclusively for Cancer care in Central Kerala. Soon, in addition to Surgical Oncology, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Oncopathology and Palliative Care divisions were started. Later, Community Oncology and Psycho-Oncology divisions were also added.

The institute started with a strength of 40 beds with a 20-bedded Day Care Chemo suite, Surgical Oncology theatre and ICU, which were later expanded and modernized.

Initially, Caritas Cancer Institute was equipped with Siemens Primus Linear Accelerator and Selectron HDR for Brachytherapy, which offered the best radiation therapy technologies available in Kerala at that time. Five years down the lane, the Radiation Oncology department was expanded with the addition of the second advanced Linear Accelerator - Siemens Primus Plus. In November 2015, Varian Unique Performance Linear Accelerator was inaugurated by Archbishop Mar Mathew Moolakkatt. Caritas Cancer Institute is soon expecting the addition of a new Linear Accelerator - Varian TrueBeam incorporating all the latest technologies.

Home Care facility was started in 2006, which served as a big boon for the palliative patients. The following years witnessed many advances in Caritas Cancer Institute with the advent of Advanced Blood Separation and Apheresis Therapy, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and Transplant ICU. The Nuclear Medicine Department was started in 2018 with PET-CT scan and Radioiodine Therapy, presently offering many latest diagnostic and therapeutic interventions. In the academic area, Caritas Cancer Institute offers the DNB and DrNB courses in both Radiation and Medical Oncology.

Multidisciplinary Tumor Board, including all the concerned specialists, is regularly conducted to discuss the management and care of cancer patients whenever required. This, in turn, assures optimum treatment plan for our patients.

Departments

A Precision Surgical Strike Against Cancer.

Surgical
Oncology





Surgical Oncology, the first Cancer specific department, which was started in Caritas Hospital 22 years ago, undertakes surgical management of a wide range of cancers thereby delivering personalized treatment with utmost care. Over 24000 patients attended the department and more than 16000 Cancer Surgeries (both Minor and Major) have been carried out till date. The Surgical Oncology department handles all types of Open and Minimal Access Surgeries. The department has dedicated Operation Theatres, Postoperative Care ICUs, Wards, and Rooms.

Services

Diagnosis and Staging Workup

Surgical Management (Including Reconstruction) of All Cancers Like:

- Head and Neck Cancers
- Breast Cancer
- Gastrointestinal Cancers
- Hepatobiliary Cancers
- Genitourinary Cancers
- Gynaecological Cancers
- Lung, Oesophageal and Mediastinal Cancers
- Musculoskeletal Cancers



Medical Oncology

Making a Difference in Cancer Care.

The dedicated Medical Oncology department at Caritas Cancer Institute is one of the oldest in Kerala devoted to systematic and evidence-based practices to treat cancer in both children and adults. It is equipped to handle all types of Oncological emergencies supported by a specialized team of highly experienced doctors, trained nurses and support staff. The Day Care Chemo area was initially started with 20 beds and was recently upgraded to 35 beds, including three dedicated Chemotherapy suites. It is also the first centre in Central Kerala to start Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation.

Services

Day Care Chemotherapy

Diagnosis/Screening of Cancer

Counselling

Stem Cell Transplantation

End-of-Life Care

Autologous Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplantation

Fighting Cancer, One Cell at a Time.

Radiation Oncology



Radiation Oncology department plays a pivotal role in Caritas Cancer Institute's commitment to provide the highest quality of cancer care. The department ensures safe and effective radiation practices as per AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board) guidelines. It is equipped with the latest technology, equipment and systems, and uses advanced treatment planning and information management software, in addition to leading-edge technologies to provide an integrated network for fast and efficient treatment that minimizes the waiting time. The team comprises of highly qualified and trained specialists, medical physicists, radiation therapists, specially trained nurses and supporting staff, including physical therapists, nutritionists, etc.

Services

Teletherapy

- 2D Conventional
- 3D Conformal
- Static and Dynamic IMRT
- RapidArc

Brachytherapy

- Interstitial
- Intracavitary
- Intraluminal
- Mould

Concurrent Chemotherapy

Services

Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine Services Planar Imaging (Dynamic & Static), SPECT and SPECT-CT Using Gamma Camera

Brain Scan Including Cerebral
Perfusion Study

Thyroid Gland Scintigraphy and
Thyroid Uptake Study

Parathyroid Gland Scintigraphy

Salivary Gland Scintigraphy

Myocardial Perfusion Scintigraphy

Cardiac Amyloidosis Imaging

MUGA Scan

Lung Ventilation - Perfusion Study

Gastric Emptying Study

Gastrointestinal Bleed Study

Liver Scan

Hepatobiliary Scintigraphy

Renogram Studies Using Diuretic and ACE
Inhibitor Interventions

GFR Evaluation

Renal Scans

Bone Scan

Lymphoscintigraphy

¹³¹I MIBG Scans for
Neuroendocrine Tumors

Know More Earlier to Treat Earlier.

The Nuclear Medicine department at Caritas Cancer Institute boasts a well-aligned and experienced team, best-in-class infrastructure and unique Molecular Imaging facility to ensure ideal treatment solutions at par with the international standards. The PET-CT and Gamma Camera Imaging (Planar, SPECT and SPECT-CT) services provided at the department helps to provide personalised medical care by giving a precise understanding of the molecular processes at the cellular level to significantly improve diagnosis and treatment outcomes. We have both diagnostic and therapeutic services. The department is equipped with high-dose isolation ward facility to treat patients on radionuclide therapy. This facility is available only in a very few hospitals across Kerala.

PET CT

Whole-body FDG PET-CT Scan
for Oncology Patients

Myocardial FDG PET Scan for Viability
Assessment in Patients with Cardiac Disorders

Whole-body ⁶⁸Ga DOTA PET-CT Scan for
Neuroendocrine Tumor Imaging

Whole-body ⁶⁸Ga PSMA PET-CT Scan for
Prostate Cancer Patients

Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine Services

Radioactive Iodine (¹³¹I) Therapy to Treat
Hyperthyroidism and Thyroid Cancer

¹⁷⁷Lu PSMA Therapy for Metastatic
Prostate Cancer

¹⁷⁷Lu PRRT for Neuroendocrine Tumors

¹³¹I MIBG for Adrenal Gland Tumors in Adults &
Adrenal Gland/Nerve Tissue Tumors in Children



**Nuclear
Medicine**

¹³¹I Lipiodol Therapy for Liver Cancer

Radioactive Therapy Using ³²P, ⁸⁹Sr, ¹⁵³Sm to Treat
Bone Pains from Tumor Metastasis to the Bone



Psycho-Oncology

Talk About Cancer to Tackle It Better.

Cancer is a complex condition that can adversely affect patients mentally as they have to face many psychological challenges. Caritas Cancer Institute has a good Psycho-Oncology division that extends support to tackle the emotional turmoils and concerns of patients and their families. The compassionate and caring team includes Psycho-oncologists, Psychiatrists and Counsellors who are highly qualified and trained to address the emotional needs of both paediatric and adult cancer patients, and help them cope with cancer in a better way. The Psycho-Oncology department plays a pivotal role in creating a positive impact on the affected patients and family members. The department respects the patient's privacy and assures confidentiality at all points of care.

Services

Family Counselling

Couple Therapy

Individual Counselling and Therapy

Diagnosis and bereavement
(Bereavement Counselling)

Pre and Post Treatment
Follow-up/Support

Quality Care to Improve Quality of Your Life.

Initiated in 2004, the Pain & Palliative Care department at Caritas Cancer Institute practices a multidisciplinary approach and undertakes the total care of mainly those cancer patients who no longer respond to curative treatments and therapies. The services offered at the department help the patients and their families to cope with the condition and improve their quality of life through controlling symptoms, relieving pain and suffering. It responds to the physical, mental, psychosocial, economic and spiritual needs and extends necessary support in bereavement. The care at the department has also widened to serve patients suffering from other chronic and incurable diseases like chronic rheumatoid arthritis, COPD, Stroke, Paraplegia, Spine Injury, Old Age, etc. The multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses and trained volunteers is the strong pillar of support for patients seeking palliative care.

Pain & Palliative Care

Services

Inpatient Care (Symptomatic Care and Terminal Care for Cancer Patients)

Outpatient Care

Palliative Home Care (Free Services Supported by the Community)

Pain Management

Integrative Oncology Care

Community-based programs on Cancer Awareness and Palliative Care

Financial Assistance to the Deserving Poor Patients

Provides Free Hospital Equipment such as Air Bed, Wheel Chair, etc. for the Needy



Hand in Hand with People to Beat Cancer.



Community Oncology

The Community Oncology department at Caritas Cancer Institute works to empower the community in cancer prevention and early detection. Considering the health scenario in India, oral and lung cancers are the most common cancers among males, while breast and cervix cancers are the leading cancers in females. Most of the cancers are either preventable or treatable if detected at an early stage. However, most cancer cases are reported at advanced stages due to the lack of knowledge about risk factors, screening methods and early detection. The Community Oncology department works to ensure the delivery of up-to-date and effective cancer awareness through right mass education and conducting various cancer detection camps regularly .

Services

[Cancer Registry](#)

[Cancer Awareness](#)

[Cancer Prevention](#)

[Early Cancer Detection](#)

[Cancer Screening](#)

[Tobacco Control](#)

Our Expert Cancer Care Team

Surgical Oncology

Dr. Jojo V. Joseph

Senior Consultant Surgical Oncologist

Pain & Palliative Oncology

Dr. Manu John

Consultant - Palliative Oncology

Nuclear Medicine & PET-CT

Dr. Johny K. Joseph

Consultant - Nuclear Medicine

Bone Marrow Transplantation

Dr. Unni S. Pillai

Consultant Medical Oncologist

Psycho-Oncology

Ms. Jophy Joseph

Psycho-Oncologist

Medical Oncology

Dr. Boben Thomas

Consultant Medical Oncologist

Dr. Unni S. Pillai

Consultant Medical Oncologist

Paediatric Oncology

Dr. Boben Thomas

Consultant Paediatric Oncologist

Pathology and Molecular Diagnostics

Dr. T. G. Bindu

Consultant Pathologist

Dr. Anju Francis

Blood Bank Medical Officer

Dr. Diya Jacob

Consultant Pathologist

Dr. Anna Joseph Amparayil

Consultant Pathologist

Interventional Radiology

Dr. Somsharan S. Betgeri

Consultant - Interventional Radiology

Radiation Oncology

Prof. Dr. Jose Tom

Senior Consultant Radiation Oncologist

Dr. Johny K. Joseph

Senior Consultant Radiation Oncologist

Dr. Jenny Joseph

Consultant Radiation Oncologist

Dr. Judith Aaron

Consultant Radiation Oncologist

Radiology

Dr. Robin K. Nakkara

Consultant - Radiology

Dr. Jincy Mathew

Consultant - Radiology

Dr. Vishnu Dev

Senior Specialist - Radiology

Dr. Sajan S.

Senior Specialist - Radiology



CARITAS HOSPITAL
THELLAKOM, KOTTAYAM - 686630
www.caritashospital.org

☎ 0481 6811110



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