

The Center for  
Cancer Prevention and Treatment™

St. Joseph Hospital   
ST. JOSEPH  
HEALTH SYSTEM



## MELANOMA PROGRAM

A Ministry founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

## MELANOMA PROGRAM

Our team of clinical experts at the Melanoma Program at St. Joseph Hospital is passionate about preventing melanoma. That's why they actively participate in national advanced clinical research and spearhead programs aimed at educating the community about the prevention and early detection of melanoma. As one of the first community cancer centers to develop a hereditary melanoma risk assessment program, our genetic counselors are leaders in identifying a patient's risk for melanoma and making tailored recommendations for reducing that risk. Our highly skilled clinical team is equally committed to adopting advanced treatment options. Working together, our accomplished clinicians develop aggressive care plans tailored to each patient's medical needs and personal preferences. Personalized care plans that include advanced treatment options enhance the patient experience and contribute to superior clinical outcomes.

## A TEAM APPROACH TO CARE

Specialists with expertise from many areas of medicine all participate in the Melanoma Program. This multidisciplinary team of highly specialized clinicians meets regularly to discuss each patient's unique medical needs and develop individual care plans that include integrated treatment options. This team approach to care ensures our patients receive comprehensive medical treatment incorporating the latest technology and medications.

### *These specialists include:*

- Cancer Surgeons
- Dermatologists
- Medical Oncologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Dermatopathologists (specialists who study the skin at a microscopic level)

- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
- Radiologists
- Cancer Navigator
- Cancer Genetic Counselors
- Clinical Research Professionals
- Rehabilitation Specialists

Our medical specialists practice evidence-based care, which means the treatment options they use are scientifically proven to be the most effective for treating melanoma and are supported by national guidelines. In addition, our physicians lead an annual melanoma symposium attended by other physicians from Orange County and beyond. During the symposium our physicians educate participants about the very latest treatments and how to improve patient care.

As a nationally recognized melanoma program, our comprehensive care often combines several different medical treatments.

- Surgery to remove cancerous tissue
- Sentinal Node Biopsy, which often eliminates the need to remove multiple lymph nodes
- Advanced plastic reconstructive surgery
- Radiation Therapy
- Lymphoscintigraphy (lymphatic mapping)
- Chemotherapy
- Biochemotherapy, which uses a combination of chemotherapy drugs and biological response modifiers (substances the body produces naturally to stimulate response to infection and disease)
- Immunotherapy, which uses a person's immune system to attack cancer cells



## MEETING YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS

Since every patient's treatment plan focuses on individual medical needs the Melanoma Program offers many additional services designed to assist our patients and their families throughout their treatment and their lives.

***These services include:***

- Clinical Trials
- Digital Skin Imaging
- Financial Counseling
- Genetic Counseling
- Interpreter Services
- Library and Resource Center
- Nutritional Counseling
- Palliative Care
- Spiritual Care
- Psychosocial Counseling
- Rehabilitation Programs
- Social Services
- Support Groups
- Survivorship Counseling for life



## **CANCER NAVIGATORS**

At The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment, we understand that cancer treatment can be stressful. In addition to medical procedures, office visits and medications, many patients must also handle insurance, financial and family-related issues. At times it can seem overwhelming. That's why our Cancer Navigators are such an important part of our patient care team. They help coordinate treatment plans, provide education, assist with insurance and financial issues, facilitate support group meetings, offer emotional support and much more. These caring experts all work together to help ease the stress of cancer treatment, enabling patients to focus on what's most important – healing.

## **CLINICAL RESEARCH**

Our partnership with the National Cancer Institute, as well as academic, industry and pharmaceutical research programs, enables our patients to participate in clinical trials and research that is shaping the future of cancer care. Participation in clinical trials gives cancer patients access to new medications, technologies and procedures frequently not available elsewhere. Members of our specialty teams work together to provide trial participants with real-time, evidence-based care.



## ABOUT ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

Founded in 1929, St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, California, is a nationally recognized, 525-bed, not-for-profit Catholic hospital dedicated to extending the healing ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Fully accredited by The Joint Commission and designated as a Magnet hospital for nursing excellence, St. Joseph Hospital's reputation for clinical excellence and compassionate, family-centered care draws patients from all over the United States. With a highly recognized 1,000-member medical staff and more than 3,800 support staff, St. Joseph Hospital is home to more than 75 specialty programs, including The Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment (the sole California participant in the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program), the Heart and Vascular Center and a nationally acclaimed Orthopedics program that has been ranked among the top 50 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Equally important is St. Joseph Hospital's dedication to caring for the medically underserved through health education programs, a free standing medical and dental clinic and mobile health clinics. For more information, visit our website at [www.sjo.org](http://www.sjo.org).

