

Mayo Clinic Minute

The link between diabetes and pancreatic cancer

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	This group of Mayo Clinic experts wants to help people survive pancreatic cancer.
(sound)	(sound of meeting)
Vivien Williams	The key is early detection. And while there is no perfect screening tool, Dr. Michael Wallace and team have found a clue to help diagnose the disease when it's still curable with surgery. That clue is a diagnosis of diabetes.
Michael Wallace, M.D. Gastroenterology/hepatology Mayo Clinic	“Many doctors who take care of patients with diabetes — primary care doctors in particular — may not even be aware that diabetes is a sign of early pancreas cancer.”
Vivien Williams	The link between diabetes and pancreatic cancer is real but rather rare. In a small number of cases ...
Michael Wallace, M.D.	“... the diabetes is actually being caused by the pancreas cancer. And the key feature is that the diabetes appears where you wouldn't expect it.”
Vivien Williams	For example, in someone who is maintaining or losing weight, someone who gets diabetes at an older age, or in someone who uses tobacco.
Michael Wallace, M.D.	“It is an opportunity to find the disease earlier when it's more treatable — more curable.”
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.