

Pancreatic carcinomas that arise near the head of the pancreas may present with palpable gall bladder (due to biliary obstruction).

## Risk Factors

### Elderly

[Old lady](#)

Pancreatic carcinoma is most common in the elderly (>70).

### Chronic Pancreatitis

[Old crone holding flaming pancreas](#)

Chronic pancreatitis, which itself has many risk factors such as alcoholism, is a common risk factor associated with pancreatic adenocarcinoma.

### Smoking

[Risk factor: Smoking](#)

Smoking is a well-known risk factor for development of pancreatic adenocarcinoma.

### Alcoholism

[Alcoholic-martini](#)

Chronic alcohol abuse has been shown to be linked to increase risk of pancreatic adenocarcinoma. This may be related to its association with chronic pancreatitis.

### Diabetes

[Dyed-beads necklace](#)

Diabetes is a well-studied risk factor that can increase one's predisposition to developing pancreatic adenocarcinoma. The exact mechanism is unclear, though it has been hypothesized that increased risk of pancreatic cancer in patients with diabetes may be related to reduced plasma adiponectin, which is a fat-derived hormone that induces insulin sensitivity and has anti-inflammatory action.