

OPENING DOORS

H.H. Chao Comprehensive Digestive Disease Center



An estimated one in four Americans is affected by a digestive disorder. The H.H. Chao Comprehensive Digestive Disease Center (CDDC) offers Orange County's only truly comprehensive, multispecialty approach to diagnosing and treating digestive disorders, uniting gastroenterologists, gastrointestinal (GI) and colorectal surgeons, and specialists in oncology, pathology and radiology.

The CDDC, located at UC Irvine Medical Center, offers Orange County's only dedicated liver program, with advanced treatments for hepatitis, liver cancer and other liver diseases.

A state-of-the-art, 8,800-square-foot endoscopy suite houses the latest technologies offering a

myriad of capabilities, including minimally invasive placement of stents in the esophagus, duodenum or biliary tract to treat blockages. CDDC surgeons are leaders in the advancement of minimally invasive techniques for esophageal, stomach, intestinal and colorectal conditions.

The GI oncology program is continuously engaged in numerous clinical trials. Current studies include radiofrequency ablation (applying radio waves) for Barrett's esophagus and a gene transfer trial for pancreatic cancer.

Moreover, CDDC physicians' pioneering research in the lab has become state-of-the-art therapy, especially in endoscopic treatments and techniques.

Treatment Programs

Among the CDDC's comprehensive diagnostic and treatment programs:

Interventional Endoscopy – UC Irvine clinicians' pioneering endoscopic technologies – including endoscopic ultrasound, video cholangioscopy and pancreatoscopy, and laser ablation therapy for bile duct lesions – are now considered standards of care in GI medicine.

Esophageal and Upper GI – The CDDC's specialized treatments include endoscopic procedures for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and innovations for patients with esophageal cancer and precancerous conditions.

Minimally Invasive Surgery – Whenever possible, laparoscopic approaches are employed, including minimally invasive surgery of the colon, pancreas, esophagus and intestines.

Bariatric Surgery – Internationally renowned specialists in weight loss surgery treat clinical obesity with minimally invasive procedures including Lap-Band® bariatric surgery and Roux-en-Y gastric bypass.

Pancreatobiliary – CDDC specialists are highly experienced in performing the complex Whipple pancreatic resection, as well as other treatments – many of them minimally invasive – for pancreatic and biliary conditions. Plans are underway to offer autologous islet cell transplants, a leading-edge treatment after removal of the pancreas.

Hepatology – With Orange County's only dedicated liver program, the CDDC serves patients with all forms of liver disease, including hepatitis, liver disease associated with alcohol abuse, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and biliary and liver cirrhosis.

Liver Cancer – Highly sophisticated liver resection (surgical removal) techniques are performed, as well as radiofrequency treatment, chemoembolization, radiation therapy and cryosurgery.

Colorectal Surgery – Minimally invasive approaches are used to treat conditions, including cancers of the small intestine, colon, rectum and anus, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis), diverticulitis, hemorrhoids and incontinence.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease – In addition to medical and minimally invasive surgical treatment, the program provides clinical trial access and psycho-social support for patients and families.

GI Oncology – CDDC doctors have helped develop gastrointestinal cancer diagnosis and treatment breakthroughs. CDDC oncologists and GI cancer surgery specialists also are part of UC Irvine's Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

