



CANCER KEYS

Pancreatic cancer: Sudden onset diabetes

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Symptoms of pancreatic cancer can often be vague; however sudden onset diabetes can be a potential indicator of the disease.

Potential pitfall:

Diabetes, especially Type 2, is common among the general population. However, consideration should be given to its significance, especially in groups of patients for whom this would be unexpected.

Helpful hint:

If pancreatic cancer stops the pancreas working properly, it may not produce enough insulin, causing diabetes. NICE guidelines advise an urgent direct access CT scan or ultrasound (if CT is unavailable) within 2 weeks for patients aged 60+ with new onset diabetes and weight loss.

Access the GatewayC **Pancreatic Cancer - Early Diagnosis** course by visiting: www.gatewayc.org.uk