



Richard R. Caradonna, MD, is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA, and received his Medical Degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. Following completion of a residency in Internal Medicine at the Albany Medical College, Dr. Caradonna served as a Lieutenant Commander, Medical Corps, in the US Navy. He subsequently completed a fellowship in Medical Oncology at the Albany Medical College. He has held faculty positions at the Albany Medical College and Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine. Dr. Caradonna has served as a Principle Investigator for clinical research projects, authored articles in the field of oncology, and has been actively involved in the treatment of cancer patients for over 21 years. Dr. Caradonna is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and Florida Medical Association. He is affiliated with Brooksville Regional Hospital, Spring Hill Regional Hospital, and Oak Hill Hospital where he serves as Chairman of the Cancer Committee.

Choosing the right community cancer center

Florida Cancer Institute

Richard R. Caradonna, MD

The National Cancer Institute estimates that over 90% of cancer patients should be treated within their own communities, but patients who are faced with a diagnosis of cancer often have no idea how to go about selecting which community cancer center can best meet their needs," observes Richard R. Caradonna, MD, of Florida Cancer Institute. Dr. Caradonna is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology.

"Standards in cancer care are advancing rapidly," he adds, "so it is imperative that patients be seen by an oncologist who can provide the patient immediate access to the best treatments, clinical research and most innovative radiation therapy techniques, all within the same facility," urges Dr. Caradonna.

He offers these guidelines to patients who are faced with choosing the right community cancer center for themselves or a loved one:

1. All treatment modalities, including chemotherapy, 3D conformal radiation therapy, immunotherapy and clinical research, should be available within one facility.
2. The center should be affiliated with a major national or cooperative oncology group to provide patients access to the latest developments in cancer care and research.

3. Board certified medical oncologists and radiation oncologists with many years of experience in cancer care should be available within the same facility for the proper coordination of patient care.

4. The cancer specialist should have extensive experience in clinical research and have access to multiple clinical research projects, which may be beneficial to patients when standard therapy no longer proves effective.

5. The community cancer center should have an extensive team of oncology nurse specialists, radiation, medical and laboratory technicians, and administrative support personnel to provide patients and their families with necessary support and assistance throughout their treatment.

6. Ancillary treatments including support groups and nutritional and psychological counseling should be readily available.

7. The physicians of the community cancer center must be able to facilitate their patients' access to university cancer centers throughout the country when these patients require a specialized or unique treatment not readily available in their own community.

"In addition," continues Dr. Caradonna, "patients should receive an individualized treatment plan with all options clearly discussed in an open, concise and compassionate fashion. This combination of an integrated, coordinated treatment plan, set in an environment of personalized, supportive and compassionate care, will help provide patients an optimal response.

"I am pleased that Florida Cancer Institute, an affiliate of U.S. Oncology, can provide these state-of-the-art services to our county." **FHCN**



Leading the charge against cancer...

Dr. Caradonna welcomes calls from those who are interested in learning more about new cancer treatment and related topics. For further information, please call (352) 596-1926. Florida Cancer Institute is located at 11307 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville, FL 34613.