



## What Can I Expect?

When faced with a diagnosis of chordoma, it is critical to receive the right care from the most experienced and focused medical experts. The multidisciplinary team of chordoma specialists at the Stephan L. Harris Center for Chordoma Care will assess your case and recommend an individualized treatment plan that may include:

- Expert review of pathological material and confirmation of chordoma diagnosis
- Diagnostic imaging
- Possible preoperative radiation
- Surgery (one or two procedures) followed by a hospital stay
- Recovery at home or at a rehabilitation facility as needed
- Proton beam radiation therapy

Most patients regain their strength and endurance in 6 to 12 months. Follow-up visits occur every three months for two years, every six months for three years, then annually for five years.

## Before Your Visit

Please call the Harris Chordoma Center for assistance on providing your medical history, including pathology and radiology reports as well as hospital and physician records, so we can prepare for your visit.



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Stephan L. Harris Center for Chordoma Care  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Yawkey Center for Outpatient Care  
Yawkey 3B  
55 Fruit Street  
Boston, MA 02114

For general inquiries, contact the patient coordinator at 617-724-8193 or [harrischordomacenter@partners.org](mailto:harrischordomacenter@partners.org).

Visit our website at [www2.massgeneral.org/chordoma](http://www2.massgeneral.org/chordoma)

To make a donation to the Stephan L. Harris Center for Chordoma Care, contact us at 1-877-MGH-7733 or visit <http://give.massgeneral.org/chordomacare>



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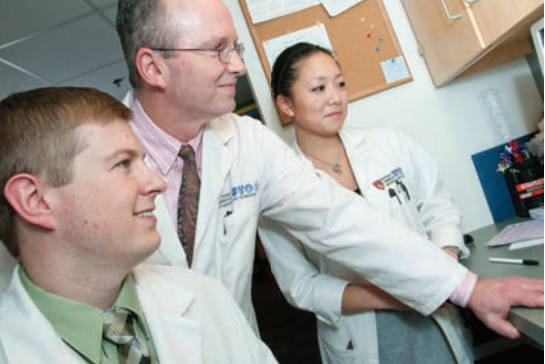
MASSACHUSETTS  
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WELCOME TO THE

# Stephan L. Harris Center for Chordoma Care

The Stephan L. Harris Center for Chordoma Care, located at the renowned Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Mass., is among the most advanced and comprehensive chordoma treatment centers in the world. Established by a generous gift from Mrs. Stephan L. Harris in memory of her husband, the Harris Chordoma Center is dedicated to providing the most innovative compassionate care for patients and families facing the challenging diagnosis of chordoma.



“Our patients come from across the United States and around the world, including Canada, Brazil, Chile, France, Greece, Iran, Russia and England. We are committed to supporting families in every way possible.” — AL FERREIRA, *Nurse Coordinator*

### Our Culture of Care

Individual care is the cornerstone of treatment at the Stephan L. Harris Center for Chordoma Care. Each patient is evaluated and cared for by a multidisciplinary team of experts who specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with chordoma. As part of Mass General, the largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, patients have access to vast resources and services that only a preeminent, academic medical center can offer.

Chordoma is a type of primary bone cancer that usually occurs at the base of the spine or tailbone or at the base of the skull; each requires a different plan of care. The tumors are generally slow-growing and can affect adjacent organs, tissues and bones. Approximately 300 new cases of chordoma are diagnosed in the United States each year. There are no known risk factors. Treatment for chordoma must be targeted, with each person’s condition carefully considered.

Pioneering care is provided by a clinical team that includes physicians in radiation, medical, surgical and orthopaedic oncology, neurosurgery, plastic reconstructive surgery, radiology and pathology as well as nurses, nurse practitioners, physical therapists and social workers who specialize in cancer care.

Patients and families are seen in our multi-disciplinary center where all aspects of care are managed in one location. To ensure high-quality seamless care, the entire medical team meets weekly to discuss each patient’s case, reviewing current imaging studies and pathology and recommending the most effective treatment plan.

Exceptional and compassionate care are hallmarks of the Harris Chordoma Center.

“The Harris Chordoma Center is one of the largest chordoma treatment centers in the country. This helps us to track trends and relentlessly investigate new approaches for treating chordoma.” — FRANCIS J. HORNICEK, MD, PHD

### Best Science, Best Care

The Harris Chordoma Center’s exceptional care begins with groundbreaking science. Our clinicians are at the forefront of both basic science and clinical research to discover better ways to diagnose, treat and manage the disease. This research has resulted in a unique treatment plan at Mass General for patients with chordoma.

While traditional treatment involves surgery alone, our group has focused on the combination of surgery and radiation to help prevent the tumor from recurring at the original site. This approach has proven to be extremely effective in ensuring the best outcomes and preventing the spread of disease. In fact, a recent published

study showed a four-year survival rate among 87 percent of the patients who received this treatment, provided surgery was performed for the first time at Mass General.

The Harris Chordoma Center’s growing patient database offers extensive opportunities for analysis and discovery. In addition, ongoing clinical trials test new therapies that enable our researchers to better understand and treat chordoma.

### Stephan L. Harris Chordoma Fund for Patient Support

Living with a diagnosis of chordoma affects all aspects of the patient’s and family’s life — physical, emotional, social, financial, and spiritual. Patients at the Harris Chordoma Center have access to a special fund established by Mrs. Harris to provide assistance to families in cases of financial hardship.

Please contact the Harris Chordoma Center for additional information.

“Patients with chordoma need a team of highly skilled, experienced clinicians to meet the enormous challenges of this complex disease. Few centers exist where these rare tumors are treated. The initial intervention in managing the disease is our patients’ best chance at obtaining a positive outcome.” — ANNE M. FIORE, *Orthopaedic Oncology Nurse Practitioner*