



*Above: Her husband has chemotherapy today; she has chemotherapy tomorrow.*

Many, if not most, cancer cases in Palestine go undiagnosed. Cancer cases in the Palestinian Territories are predicted to rise by at least 30 percent over the next five years. Statistically, nearly one in seven Palestinian men and one in fifteen Palestinian women will develop some form of cancer, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer. The most common cancers for Palestinian women are breast, colorectal, and uterine cancer. For men, the most common cancers are bladder, lung, and colorectal cancer. Children suffering from cancer are most commonly affected by leukemia and lymphomas. Currently, survival rates for Palestinians with cancer are low.

The Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) Cancer Center will be the first radiation therapy facility in the Palestinian Territories, and the only radiation therapy facility in The West Bank, which is home to more than two million people. AVH, as a project of the Lutheran World Federation, has been serving the Palestinian community for over 50 years.

## How you can help

Supporting the AVH Cancer Center means giving a chance to cancer patients in the Palestinian Territories. Donations to the Cancer Center pay for costly cancer-fighting treatments that patients could not afford on their own. All help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

Please make checks payable to the Lutheran World Federation - Jerusalem, and note "Cancer Center" on the check.

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Or you can electronically transfer funds to:

HSBC-Middle East Bank  
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Account Name: Lutheran World Federation  
Account #: 011-007010-160  
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## Augusta Victoria Hospital



**Lutheran  
World  
Federation  
Jerusalem**

## Cancer Center

## The Hospital

AVH has been a project of the Lutheran World Federation since 1950. The LWF assumed full control of the hospital in 1951, taking over hospital administration from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Today AVH continues to serve the Palestinian community, caring primarily for refugees residing in the West Bank. No one is denied treatment, as the hospital does not discriminate based on race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, or ability to pay.



*At Left: This man left his home at 3:00 AM so that he could get through the checkpoints and arrive at AVH for his mid-day chemotherapy treatment.*

## Radiation Therapy

Radiation Therapy is a technique which directs a beam of radiation at the specific location of a tumor. Although this is a standard cancer treatment, AVH will be the first hospital in the Palestinian Territories (a population over 2.5 million) that offers this treatment.

In the past, doctors in Palestinian medical facilities had to refer patients to hospitals abroad for radiation therapy. This is a difficult option for most Palestinian patients due to their limited financial resources.

## Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is a way of treating cancer by administering drugs intravenously. The cells most susceptible to the effects and side effects of the treatment are those that are rapidly dividing, such as the cancer cells themselves, bone marrow cells, and the cells of hair follicles.

AVH is one of four hospitals in the Palestinian territories that offer chemotherapy. Because of the high costs of chemotherapy products, the poverty of many patients of AVH, and the complications of obtaining such treatments in an occupied territory, it is always a struggle to get the drugs for chemotherapy when they are needed.



Above: AVH doctors analyze CT scans.

## Cancer Treatment at AVH

The AVH Cancer Center is the only comprehensive cancer treatment center in the Palestinian Territories. It strives to provide care up to the highest standards -- not an easy task in the midst of a long-running conflict. The medical management of the Center strives to give AVH patients the best and most up-to-date treatments, regardless of the fact that most of the patients at AVH are from poor and marginalized communities.

Because AVH is committed to providing a high standard of care and it does not deny anyone treatment based on ability to pay, the hospital always has difficulties financing its cancer treatment services.