

# Optim Oncology Treats More than Cancer— *They Treat and Care for YOU*

Treating cancer is complex. It requires the right team of doctors with the right tools and technology. Patients can find both—close to home—at Optim Oncology.

“**T**he personalized care we provide is what makes Optim Oncology special. We are a small, local practice, but because of our affiliation with The US Oncology Network, we have access to amazing resources and data. Our patients stay close to home and receive cutting-edge treatment from people who know and respect them and who see them as more than their cancer diagnosis,” says Yaseen Zia, MD, Radiation Oncologist, at Optim Oncology.

Zia and his colleagues are part of a new wave of physicians and practices focused on treating patients comprehensively and holistically. The practice sees patients of all ages and treats all cancers, including prostate, breast, lung, and skin.

“The care our patients receive is evidence-based but highly individualized, and as a result, we tend to see better outcomes,” says Bilal Ahmad, MD, Medical Oncologist.

## In Partnership with The US Oncology Network

Optim Oncology employs a small but select group of board-certified doctors, nurses, and other staff and is affiliated with The US Oncology Network, one of the nation’s largest networks of integrated, community-based oncology practices. The Network includes more than 1,400 physicians and 400 practices. It’s a relationship that delivers the best of both worlds to patients.



The Optim Oncology Team  
(standing, l to r) Bilal Ahmad, MD, Yaseen Zia, MD  
(seated, l to r) Christopher Bozarth, MD, Teresa Craig, MD

“Our smaller, more intimate practice allows us to build trusting relationships with our patients,” says Christopher Bozarth, MD, Radiation Oncologist. “Because of The US Oncology Network, we also have access to the resources of a national organization.”

Bozarth points to genetic testing and counseling, research tools and programs, and access to the newest treatment protocols as benefits that come with The Network.

## Innovations in Cancer Treatment

Following an initial consultation, Optim Oncology physicians share treatment options with their patients based on patient goals and prognoses. Immunotherapy, which has been used in the practice for nearly five years, as well as the more typical chemo and radiation therapies, is a common recommendation.

Cancer is instigated by mutations at the DNA level,

Ahmad explains. The medical field can now identify the specific mutations, allowing doctors to incorporate immunotherapies and related medications whenever appropriate.

“There are many upsides to immunotherapy,” Ahmad reveals. “Patients can return to work or spend time with family rather than in the hospital. And since immunotherapies attack only cancerous tissue, many side effects, including hair loss, can be avoided.”

Zia adds that fewer side effects mean patients are more likely to follow through on completing the assigned course of treatment. Immunotherapy, he suggests, is especially helpful in treating children.

Meanwhile, Bozarth says that receiving a cancer diagnosis is, undoubtedly, a scary experience for anyone.

“Families, in particular, affect the emotional, spiritual, and physical aspects of the journey. In times of crisis, we rely on our loved ones,” he concludes. “The stronger a patient’s support system, the more likely he or she is to have a positive outlook. In the best case, cancer is merely a short-term setback. Together, we can help them get through it.”

