

CANCER SPECIAL

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DR DINESH RAMASWAMY

*Gastrointestinal Oncologist,
SIMS Hospital*

Pioneering Advanced Surgical Care in Gastrointestinal Oncology



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**DR DINESH
RAMASWAMY**

**Pioneering Advanced Surgical Care
in Gastrointestinal Oncology**

By Priya S

Gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, including those affecting the esophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, colon, and rectum, are among the leading contributors to the global cancer burden. Their rising incidence has underscored the need for early diagnosis, precision surgery, and multidisciplinary treatment to improve survival and quality of life. As cancer care becomes increasingly personalized, Surgical Gastroenterology and GI Oncosurgery have assumed a pivotal role in delivering better clinical outcomes.

Advances such as high-definition imaging, fluorescence-guided surgery, robotic-assisted procedures, and enhanced recovery protocols have significantly improved surgical precision and patient recovery. Yet, technology alone is not enough. Successful GI oncology demands clinical judgment, technical expertise, and a collaborative approach that integrates surgery with oncology, radiology, nutrition, and rehabilitation to provide comprehensive, patient-centred cancer care.

Few surgeons embody this evolving philosophy as comprehensively as Dr Dinesh Ramaswamy, Senior Consultant Surgical Gastroenterologist, GI Oncosurgeon, and Advanced Laparoscopic Surgeon. With rigorous training at India’s premier medical institutions, experience in managing highly complex hepatopancreatobiliary and gastrointestinal cancers, and a career dedicated to advancing minimally invasive surgery, Dr Ramaswamy has consistently combined surgical excellence with patient-centric care. His work reflects a modern approach to GI oncology, one that extends beyond tumour removal to encompass precision, multidisciplinary collaboration, faster recovery, and better long-term outcomes for every patient.

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Dr Dinesh Ramaswamy
Gastrointestinal Oncologist
SIMS Hospital



Building a Foundation in Surgical Excellence

For Dr Dinesh Ramaswamy, the decision to pursue medicine was inspired long before entering medical school. Growing up as the first doctor in his family, he viewed the medical profession as one of society’s most trusted callings. During his MBBS, surgery quickly became his area of interest, particularly abdominal surgery because of its technical complexity and the diverse range of organs it encompasses.

His professional foundation was established at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, where he completed his General Surgery training. Exposure to one of the country’s busiest tertiary care centres provided invaluable experience in complex abdominal surgeries, organ transplantation, advanced gastrointestinal diseases, and pioneering research. It was also during this period that he completed laparoscopic surgery certification in Germany, strengthening his expertise in minimally invasive techniques at a time when these approaches were rapidly transforming surgical practice.

His specialization continued with an MCh in Surgical Gastroenterology from Maulana Azad Medical College and GB Pant Hospital, one of India’s foremost referral centres for

hepatobiliary surgery and GI oncology. A subsequent tenure at Medanta Medicity under the mentorship of renowned hepatobiliary surgeon Dr Adarsh Chaudhary further refined his capabilities in managing highly complex gastrointestinal cancers. Collectively, these experiences shaped his philosophy that technical mastery must always be accompanied by sound clinical judgment and multidisciplinary decision-making.

Driving Innovation in Hepatobiliary and GI Cancer Surgery

Throughout his career, Dr Ramaswamy has contributed significantly to strengthening advanced gastrointestinal surgical services across the institutions he has served.

At Vijaya Hospital in Chennai, he played an instrumental role in establishing hepatobiliary surgery services, expanding the hospital’s capabilities in complex liver and pancreatic procedures. At SIMS Hospital, he introduced advanced laparoscopic hepatopancreatobiliary surgeries, including laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy and splenectomy, while also contributing to the adoption of robotic surgical techniques for complex gastrointestinal cancers.

His practice spans a wide spectrum of challenging conditions involving the liver, pancreas, bile ducts, stomach,

colon, rectum, and spleen. Equally important is his ability to manage patients presenting with advanced disease or multiple complications, where surgical intervention represents only one component of comprehensive cancer care.

One particularly memorable case involved a patient with advanced rectal cancer who had been informed elsewhere that minimally invasive surgery was unlikely and that a permanent stoma would probably be unavoidable. Following comprehensive reassessment through a multidisciplinary tumour board and successful neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy, Dr Ramaswamy performed a laparoscopic sphincter-preserving surgery that eliminated the need for a permanent stoma. Beyond the technical success, the case reinforced the importance of individualized treatment planning and collaborative cancer care in achieving life-changing outcomes.

Harnessing Technology for Better Patient Outcomes

Modern GI oncology is increasingly defined by precision, and Dr Ramaswamy has remained at the forefront of adopting technologies that enhance surgical accuracy while minimizing patient trauma.

His practice incorporates advanced energy devices, 4K high-definition laparoscopic imaging, and Indocyanine Green (ICG) fluorescence technology to improve anatomical visualization, assess tissue perfusion, and reduce surgical complications. These innovations allow for more meticulous tumour resections and comprehensive lymph node dissections while reducing blood loss, postoperative pain, and recovery time.

“Robotic-assisted surgery has further expanded the possibilities for treating cancers located within anatomically confined spaces such as the pelvis and esophagus. Enhanced three-dimensional visualization, articulated instruments, and superior dexterity enable greater precision during technically demanding procedures while preserving critical structures”, shares Dr Dinesh Ramaswamy.

However, Dr Ramaswamy believes technological advancement should never become an objective in itself. His approach focuses on selecting the most appropriate intervention based on each patient’s disease, anatomy, and overall health rather than applying technology indiscriminately. Equally important is his proficiency in both minimally invasive and conventional open surgery, ensuring patient safety remains the overriding priority even in the most complex clinical scenarios.

Looking ahead, he views artificial intelligence-assisted surgical planning, virtual imaging integration, and continued advancements in robotic surgery as key developments that will further enhance surgical precision and improve long-term oncological outcomes.

Championing Comprehensive Cancer Care Beyond the Operating Room

While surgical expertise forms the cornerstone of his practice, Dr Ramaswamy firmly believes that successful cancer treatment extends well beyond the operating theatre.

Every gastrointestinal cancer patient presents unique medical, psychological, social, and financial challenges that influence treatment decisions and recovery. Consequently, he advocates strongly for multidisciplinary cancer care involving surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, nutritionists, and rehabilitation specialists working together to deliver individualized treatment.

He is also a strong proponent of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols, which have transformed perioperative care by promoting earlier mobilization, optimized pain management, improved nutrition, and shorter hospital stays. Such evidence-based pathways not only improve clinical outcomes but also enhance patients’ overall treatment experience.

Another area close to his professional philosophy is the integration of psychological support within routine cancer management. A cancer diagnosis often creates profound emotional distress for patients and families, yet mental health services remain underutilized in many treatment pathways. Dr Ramaswamy believes addressing these psychological needs alongside medical treatment can significantly improve both recovery and long-term quality of life.

As gastrointestinal cancers continue to rise across India, he also emphasizes the urgent need for greater public awareness, earlier diagnosis, wider access to endoscopic screening, and timely referrals from primary care physicians. Combined with advances in minimally invasive surgery, immunotherapy, and multidisciplinary treatment, these measures have the potential to substantially improve survival rates and transform the future of GI oncology.

For Dr Dinesh Ramaswamy, excellence in gastrointestinal oncology is not measured solely by successful operations but by delivering comprehensive, compassionate, and evidence-based care that enables patients to return to healthier, fuller lives.

- What Gives Dr. Dinesh Ramaswamy an Edge**
- Premier training at AIIMS, GB Pant Hospital, and Medanta Medicity.
 - Expertise in complex GI, hepatobiliary, and pancreatic cancer surgeries.
 - Advanced proficiency in laparoscopic and robotic GI oncology.
 - Strong advocate of multidisciplinary, patient-centric cancer care.
 - Focused on precision surgery, ERAS protocols, and better patient outcomes.

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recognized by **siliconindia** Magazine as

si **CANCER SPECIAL** **2026**
GASTROINTESTINAL ONCOLOGIST

*Through this Award, we acknowledge and applaud the healthcare professional's
myriad care & treatment services, and their ingenuity in leveraging
best practices to develop unique methodologies
that address complex healthcare needs.*

Mandvi Singh

MANDVI SINGH
Managing Editor