

Esophageal cancer

Esophageal cancer occurs when tumors form in the tissues of the esophagus, which is a muscular tube that moves food and liquids from the throat to the stomach for digestion.

Cancer types and incidence

The two most common types of esophageal cancer are squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) and adenocarcinoma (EAC).



ESCC tumors generally form in the flat squamous cells lining the upper and middle parts of the esophagus.



EAC begins in the cells of the mucus-secreting glands in the esophagus, typically near the stomach.

Source: National Institute of Health 2018

Men are more than twice as likely as women to be diagnosed with esophageal cancer.



Source: GLOBOCAN 2020

Median age

68

At diagnosis

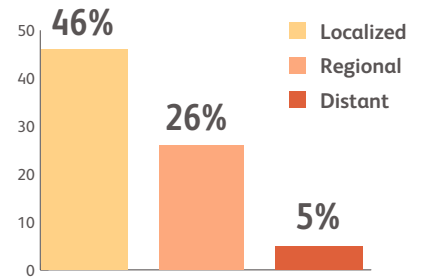
69

At death

Source: SEER 2014-2018

Staging and survival rates

Five-year relative survival rates vary depending on the stage and type of esophageal cancer:



Source: American Cancer Society 2022

Common risk factors

Risk factors for esophageal cancer may be related to certain behaviors, or pre-existing or genetic conditions. Common risk factors include:



Obesity



Alcohol use



Tobacco use



Diet



Barrett's esophagus



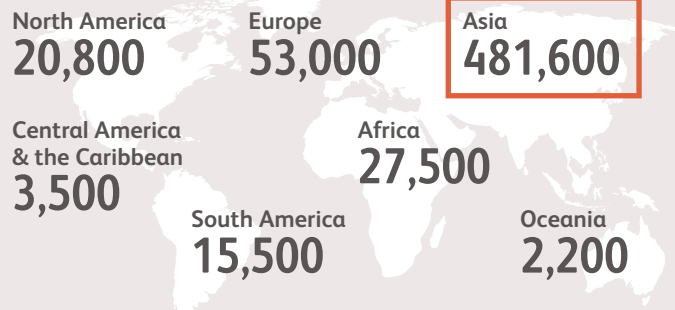
Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)



Genetics

Global incidence

Asia accounts for about 80% of all esophageal cancer patients, with China alone accounting for over 50% of the global patient population.



Source: GLOBOCAN 2020

Signs and symptoms

Many esophageal cancers may not cause symptoms until they have reached an advanced stage. Symptoms may also be mistaken for conditions unrelated to cancer. These may include:



Unintended weight loss



Weakness due to anemia (from blood loss)



Chest pain in the absence of heart disease



Difficulty swallowing solid foods



Heartburn or indigestion



Coughing or hoarseness

Benefits of early intervention

There are notable potential advantages of **earlier diagnosis** and treatment of esophageal cancer.



Improved survival outcomes



Increased quality of life



Lower cost of treatment

Treatment options

The recommended treatment for esophageal cancer will depend upon the stage that the cancer is diagnosed in, among other factors, and may include:



Surgery



Immunotherapy



Radiation therapy



Chemotherapy



Targeted drug therapy



Endoscopic treatments