Esophageal cancer is the eighth most common cancer type and the sixth most common cause of cancer-related death around the world, disproportionately impacting Asia.

What is 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 & 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.

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

× 2.3

Men at Diagnosis: 68
Women at Diagnosis: 69

Median Age
At Diagnosis: 68
At Death: 69

Approximately 90% of esophageal cancer patients have ESCC.

Approximately 10% of esophageal cancer patients have EAC.

Common Risk Factors
Risk factors for esophageal cancer may be behavioral, related to pre-existing or genetic conditions. Common risk factors include:
- Obesity
- Alcohol
- Tobacco Use
- Diet
- Barrett’s Esophagus
- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease
- Genetics

Signs & 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, including:
- 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

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

North America: 20,800
Europe: 53,000
Asia: 481,600
Central America & the Caribbean: 3,500
South America: 15,500
Africa: 27,500
Oceania: 2,200

Source: GLOBOCAN 2020

Treatment Options
The main options for treatment of esophageal cancer include:
- Surgery
- Radiation Therapy
- Chemotherapy
- Targeted Therapy
- Endoscopic Treatments
- Immunotherapy

Source: SEER 2014-2018
Source: GLOBOCAN 2020