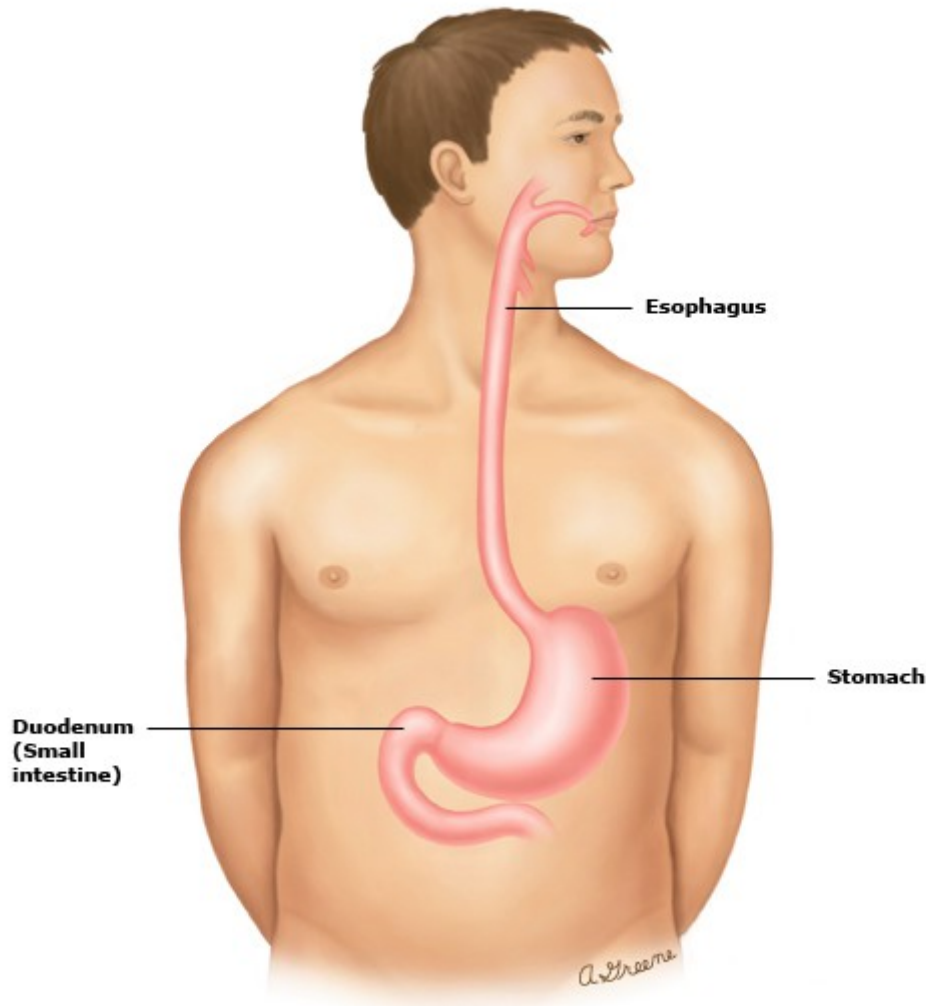


CANCER FOOD PIPE (ESOPHAGEAL)

What is esophageal cancer? — Esophageal cancer happens when normal cells in the esophagus change into abnormal cells and grow out of control. The esophagus is the tube that moves food from the mouth to the stomach.



What are the symptoms of esophageal cancer? — Early on, people might not notice any symptoms. They might find out they have esophageal cancer after a test for another condition.

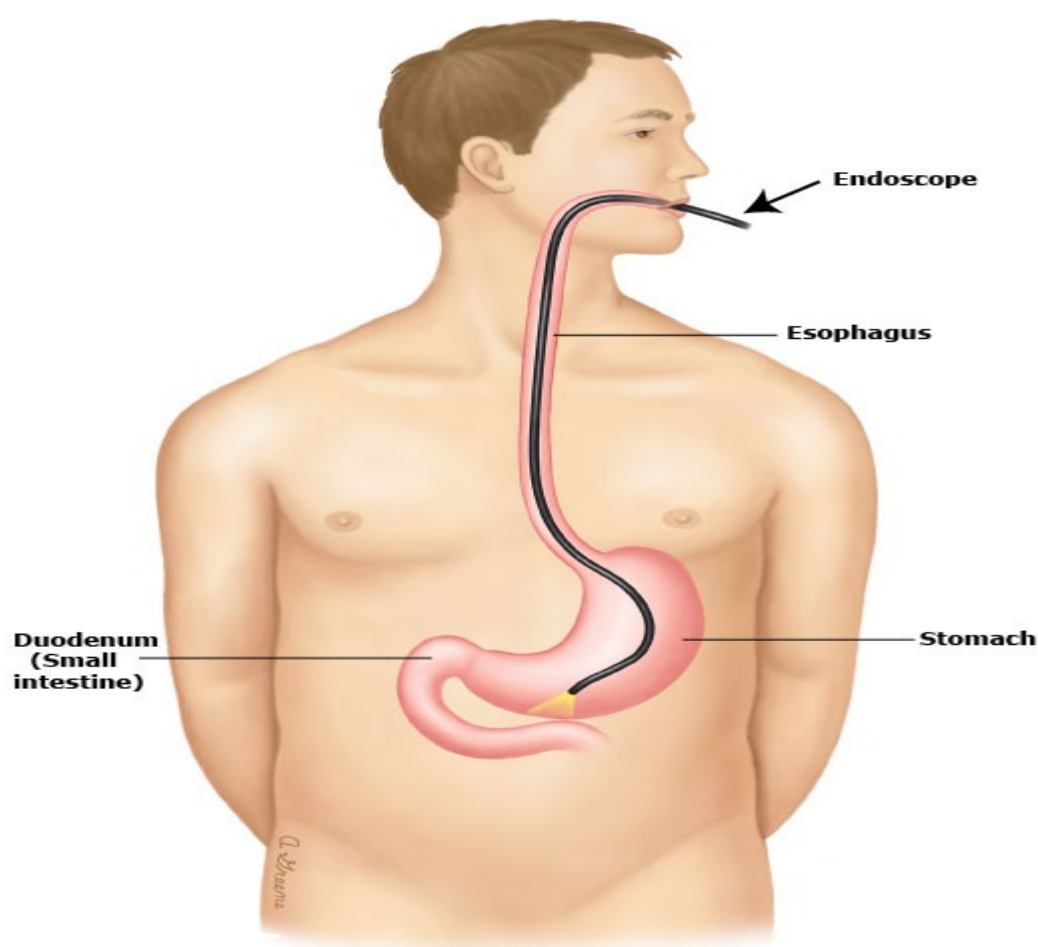
When people have symptoms from esophageal cancer, they might have:

- Trouble swallowing, especially solid, dry foods – This gets worse over time.
- Weight loss
- Pain or a burning feeling in the chest
- Hoarse voice

All of these symptoms can also be caused by conditions that are not cancer. But if you have these symptoms, tell your doctor.

Is there a test for esophageal cancer? — Yes. If your doctor suspects you have esophageal cancer, he or she will do 1 or more of the following tests:

- Barium swallow – Your doctor will give you a drink called “barium.” Then he or she will take X-rays as the barium moves down your esophagus.
- Upper endoscopy – This is a procedure in which your doctor puts a thin tube with a camera and light on the end (called an endoscope) into your mouth and down into your esophagus. He or she will look at the lining of your esophagus.



During an upper endoscopy, you lie down and the doctor puts a thin tube with a camera and light on the end (called an endoscope) into your mouth and down into your esophagus, stomach, and duodenum (the first part of your small intestine). The camera sends video pictures from inside your body to a television screen. That way, your doctor can see the inside of your esophagus, stomach, and duodenum.

- Biopsy – For this test, your doctor will take a small sample of tissue from your

esophagus. Another doctor will look at the sample under a microscope to see if it has cancer. Your doctor will probably do a biopsy during an upper endoscopy. A biopsy is the only way to know for sure if you have esophageal cancer.

What is cancer staging? — Cancer staging is a way in which doctors find out if a cancer has a spread past the layer of tissue where it began, and, if so, how far.

The right treatment for you will depend a lot on the stage of your cancer and your other medical problems.

How is esophageal cancer treated? — Most people with esophageal cancer have 1 or more of the following treatments:

- Surgery – Esophageal cancer can be treated with surgery to remove the cancer. If your doctor needs to remove part of your esophagus during surgery, he or she will reconnect your esophagus and stomach so that you can swallow food.
- Radiation therapy – Radiation kills cancer cells.
- Chemotherapy – Chemotherapy is the term doctors use to describe a group of medicines that kill cancer cells.

Esophageal cancer can sometimes be cured with treatment. This is most likely when the cancer is found at an early stage. If your cancer cannot be cured, your doctor might do other treatments to help improve your symptoms. These can include:

- Doing a procedure to widen the blocked part of your esophagus and putting a stent in esophagus so that patient can eat and drink comfortably.

What happens after treatment? — After treatment, you will be checked every so often to see if the cancer comes back. Regular follow-up tests usually include exams, blood tests, and imaging tests. Some people also have follow-up upper endoscopy or barium swallow tests.

You should also watch for the symptoms listed above. Having those symptoms could mean the cancer has come back. Tell your doctor if you have any symptoms.

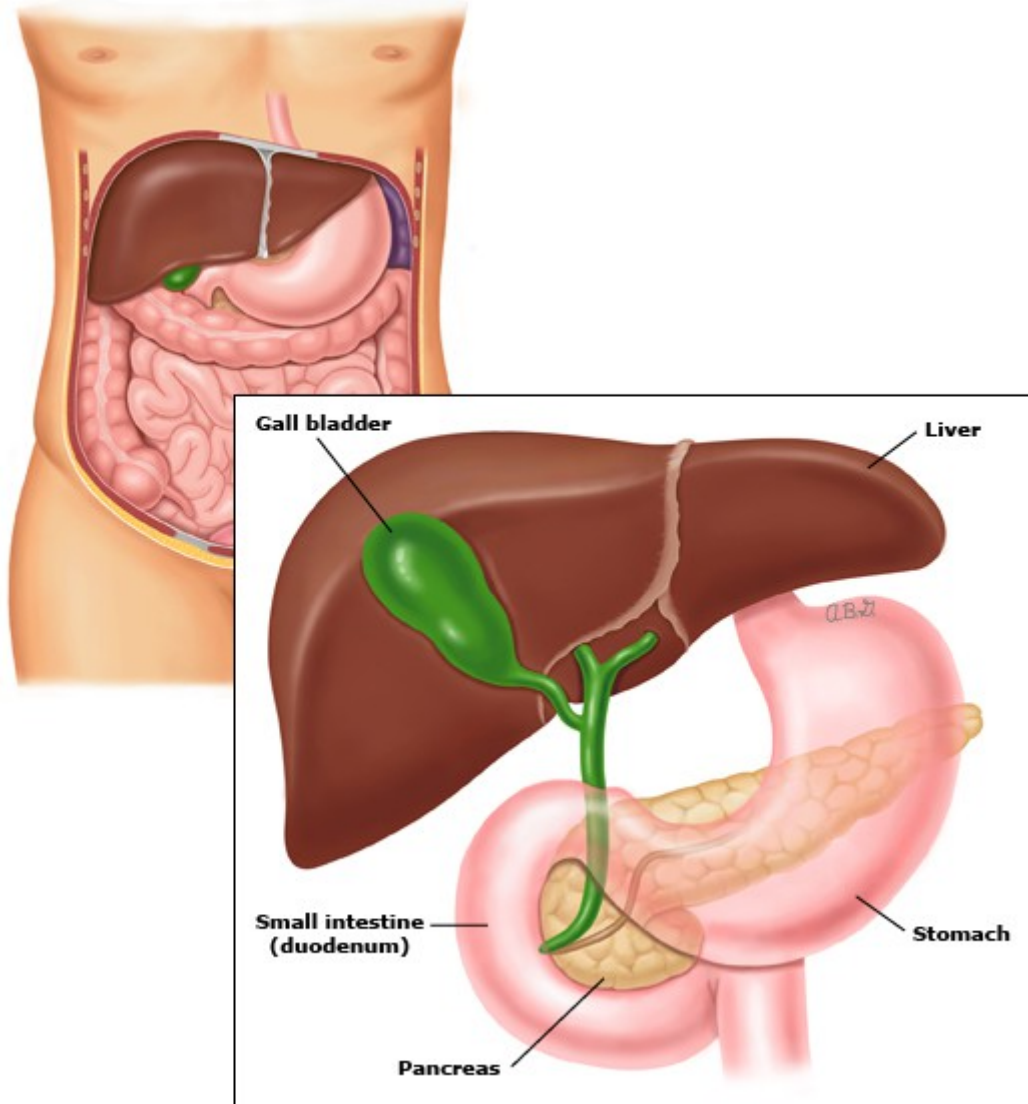
What happens if the cancer comes back or spreads? — If the cancer comes back or spreads, you might have more radiation therapy or chemotherapy. You might also have other treatments to help improve your symptoms.

What else should I do? — It is important to follow all your doctor's instructions about visits and tests. It's also important to talk to your doctor about any side effects or problems you have during treatment.

Getting treated for esophageal cancer involves making many choices, such as what treatment to have.

CANCER OF PANCREAS

What is pancreatic cancer? — Pancreatic cancer happens when normal cells in the pancreas change into abnormal cells and grow out of control. The pancreas is an organ that makes hormones and juices that help the body break down food.



The pancreas is an organ that is found behind the stomach. It makes hormones and juices that help the body break down food.

What are the symptoms of pancreatic cancer? — Symptoms of pancreatic cancer can include:

- Pain – People can have pain that spreads from their stomach around to their back. The pain can come and go, and it can get worse after eating.
- Weight loss – People might not feel hungry, or might feel full after eating very little.
- Diarrhea – Bowel movements can look greasy or be difficult to flush in the toilet bowl.

- Yellowing of the skin, called jaundice – Both the skin and the white part of the eyes can turn yellow. When jaundice happens in people with pancreatic cancer, it is usually because one of the tubes that carry bile from the gallbladder to the intestines is blocked. (The gallbladder is a small, pear-shaped organ that stores bile, a fluid that helps the body break down fat.) If a bile duct gets blocked, it can also cause your bowel movements to look gray instead of brown.

These symptoms can also be caused by conditions that are not pancreatic cancer. But if you have these symptoms, tell your doctor about them.

Is there a test for pancreatic cancer? — Yes. If your doctor suspects you have pancreatic cancer, he or she will order one or more tests. These can include:

- Blood tests
- Imaging tests, such as an ultrasound, a CT scan, or a test called ERCP (which stands for endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography) – These tests create pictures of the inside of the body and can show abnormal growths.
- Biopsy – For a biopsy, a doctor takes a small sample of tissue from the pancreas. Then another doctor will look at the sample under a microscope to check for cancer.

What is cancer staging? — Cancer staging is a way in which doctors find out how far a cancer has spread.

The right treatment for you will depend a lot on the stage of your cancer. Your treatment will also depend on your age and other medical problems.

How is pancreatic cancer treated? — People with pancreatic cancer might be offered one or more of the following treatments:

- Surgery** – Pancreatic cancer can sometimes be treated with surgery to remove the cancer. Before surgery, a doctor might do a procedure called “laparoscopy”. In a laparoscopy, a doctor will make small cuts in the belly. He or she will put a thin tube with a camera on it inside the belly to check whether there is spread of cancer outside of the pancreas.
- Chemotherapy** – Chemotherapy is the term doctors use to describe a group of medicines that kill cancer cells.
- Radiation therapy** – Radiation kills cancer cells.

Pancreatic cancer can sometimes be cured with treatment. This is most likely in people whose cancer is found at an early stage. Even if your pancreatic cancer cannot be cured, your doctor can treat your symptoms. For example, he or she can prescribe medicine or a procedure called a celiac plexus block to reduce your pain.

What happens after treatment? — Following treatment, you will be checked every so

often to see if the cancer comes back. Follow up tests usually include exams, blood tests, and imaging tests. If the cancer comes back after treatment, you might have chemotherapy or radiation therapy. You might also get pain medicine or other treatments to help with pain.

What else should I do? — It is important to follow all your doctors' instructions about visits and tests. It's also important to talk to your doctor about any side effects or problems you have during treatment.

Getting treated for pancreatic cancer involves making many choices, such as which treatment to have.