

# GASTRIC CANCER



## What is Gastric Cancer?

Gastric cancer, or stomach cancer, will account for an estimated **26,380 new cases** and<sup>1</sup>

**11,090 deaths** this year in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

In the U.S., around **90% to 95%** of stomach cancers are adenocarcinomas, meaning the cancer develops from the gland cells in the innermost lining of the stomach. Other types of cancers that start in the stomach: *gastrointestinal stromal tumors, neuroendocrine tumors, lymphoma of the stomach, and types of squamous cell carcinoma in the stomach.*<sup>2</sup>

## What is Metastatic Gastric or Gastroesophageal Junction (GEJ) Cancer?

Because early-stage gastric cancer symptoms frequently overlap with other more common stomach-related conditions, gastric cancer is **often diagnosed in the advanced or metastatic stage**, or once it has spread from the tumor's origin to other body tissues or organs.<sup>3</sup>

GEJ cancer is a type of cancer that occurs within the esophagus, the tube connecting the mouth to the stomach.<sup>4</sup> Overall, **39%** of people diagnosed with esophageal cancer are diagnosed once the cancer has already **advanced and metastasized.**<sup>4-5</sup>

## What is the Prevalence of Cancer?

In 2021, gastric cancer accounted for approximately **1.4% of all new cancer cases** diagnosed in the U.S.<sup>6</sup>

It is most frequently diagnosed among people ages 65-74 with the median age of diagnosis at **68 years old.**<sup>6</sup>

## What Are Common Risk Factors, Signs and Symptoms for Gastric Cancer?

Risk factors associated with gastric cancer include:<sup>3,8</sup>

- older age
- male
- an immediate family member diagnosed with gastric cancer
- an *Helicobacter pylori* (H. pylori) bacterial infection in the stomach from exposure through mouth-to-mouth contact or contaminated food/water.
- smoking
- GERD

Signs and symptoms include:<sup>7</sup>

- indigestion or heartburn
- pain or discomfort in the abdomen
- nausea and vomiting
- diarrhea or constipation
- bloating of the stomach after meals
- loss of appetite and sensation of food getting stuck in the throat while eating.

Signs of more advanced gastric cancer can include:<sup>3,7</sup>

- unexplained weight loss
- weakness and fatigue
- vomiting blood or having blood in the stool.

## What Are the Staging and Survival Rates?

Survival rates can vary depending on the stage of cancer at diagnosis.<sup>6</sup>

Overall 5-year relative survival rate for people diagnosed with gastric cancer at any stage **~32%**

For **28%** of people diagnosed with "localized" disease to the stomach only **~70%**

For **26%** of people diagnosed with "regional" or "locally advanced" cancer that has spread to nearby lymph nodes **~32%**

For **36%** of people diagnosed with "distant" cancer which has metastasized to other parts of the body **~6%**

## How is Gastric Cancer Treated?

Types of treatment may include:<sup>3</sup>

- surgery (i.e., gastrectomy or removal of the stomach, or esophagectomy or removal of the esophagus)
- chemotherapy and immunotherapy
- targeted drug therapy
- radiation therapy

Depends on the individual patient case.

<sup>1</sup>American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2022. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2022/2022-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf>. Accessed 01-12-2022.

<sup>2</sup>American Cancer Society. What is stomach cancer? (01-22-2021). <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/stomach-cancer/about/what-is-stomach-cancer.html>. Accessed 07-23-2021.

<sup>3</sup>National Cancer Institute. Gastric cancer treatment (PDQ®): patient version (08-24-2021). <https://www.cancer.gov/types/stomach/patient/stomach-treatment-pdq>. Accessed 10-11-2021.

<sup>4</sup>American Cancer Society. About esophagus cancer (03-20-2020). <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8614.00.pdf>. Accessed 07-23-2021.

<sup>5</sup>National Cancer Institute. Cancer stat facts: esophageal cancer. <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/esoph.html>. Accessed 03-16-2022.

<sup>6</sup>National Cancer Institute. Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program. Cancer stat facts: stomach cancer. <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/stomach.html>. Accessed 07-23-2021.

<sup>7</sup>American Cancer Society. Signs and symptoms of stomach cancer (01-22-2021). <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/stomach-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/signs-symptoms.html>. Accessed 02-25-2022.

<sup>8</sup>American Cancer Society. Esophageal cancer risk factors (06-09-2020). <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/esophagus-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/risk-factors.html>. Accessed 09-13-2021.