

# Nutrition Support

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## Introduction

I'm Dr Jonathan Salo, I'm a GI Cancer Surgeon in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Esophageal cancer can cause difficulty with swallowing, which can limit your body's ability to get the nutrition you need in order to keep your body healthy during cancer treatment.

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In this video you'll learn about

- Feeding tubes
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One of the questions you will want to address with your esophageal cancer care team is whether or not you need a *feeding tube* to help with your nutrition during cancer treatment. Your dietitian and physicians will evaluate your situation and made a recommendation. Let's take a look at the options:

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A gastrostomy tube is placed into the stomach by a surgical procedure. Feedings can be administered with a syringe. A gastrostomy tube still allows you to eat as much as you would like.

A jejunostomy tube is placed into the jejunum, or the small intestine. Feedings require a pump and are generally given overnight, which can take 12-16 hours. A jejunostomy tube still allows you to eat as much as you would like.

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The decision between a gastrostomy tube and jejunostomy tube can be a little complex, but here are some general principles. For those with stomach cancer who need supplemental feeding, a jejunostomy tube is needed.

For patients who undergo surgery on the esophagus, a jejunostomy tube is frequently used *after* surgery

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For patients who have esophageal cancer and who are undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, either a gastrostomy tube or jejunostomy tube can be used, depending upon whether or not surgery on the esophagus is planned. This is a more complicated decision that your care team will make in coordination with your surgeon.

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If you or a family member have had an encounter with esophageal cancer, I would love to hear about your experience, so please take a minute to leave a comment below. We're constantly creating new videos, so please subscribe to be notified of new videos when we post them.

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Here are some additional videos which you may find helpful:

Gastrostomy Tube for Nutritional Support