

Locally-Advanced Esophageal Adenocarcinoma

1 Intro L 1

I'm Dr Jonathan Salo, a GI Cancer Surgeon in Charlotte, North Carolina. If you're seeing this video, chances are you or someone close to you has had an encounter with esophageal cancer. These videos are designed to educate you about cancer and its treatment and help you and your cancer care team make the right decisions for you.

Of course, there is no substitute for the expert opinions of your cancer care team.

2 Locally-advanced Esophageal Cancer L 4.

The topic of this video is locally-advanced adenocarcinoma of the esophagus and gastroesophageal junction.

3 Esophagus or Gastroesophageal junction 2.

We will consider cancers of the esophagus and gastro-esophageal junction together, as the treatment is similar.

4 Treatment is guided by the Stage of cancer

The treatment recommended will depend upon the stage of the cancer. If you haven't already, this may be a good time to view the video on Diagnosis and Staging.

5 Staging

A PET or CT scan is used for staging. If the scans show that the tumor is localized, without signs of spread beyond the nearby lymph nodes, it is considered M0.

On the other hand, if the scans show signs of spread, this is considered M1.

6 Metastatic Disease = M1

Patients with metastatic disease are best treated with chemotherapy and are generally not treated with surgery

7 Locally Advanced Esophageal Cancer 4

We will focus in this video on Locally-advanced Esophageal cancer

8 Locally-advanced Esophageal Cancer T2/3 or N+.

Locally advanced esophageal cancer has not spread to other organs in the body. Locally-advanced cancers are not only M0, but they are either T2 or T3 or node-positive.

If this terminology is not familiar to you, please refer to our video on Diagnosis and Staging. There is a link above and in the description below.

9 Locally-advanced: M0

Locally-advanced cancers are M0, which means there is no evidence of metastasis, or spread to other parts of the body.

10 Adenocarcinoma vs Squamous Cell.

To make things a bit more complicated, there are two types of esophageal cancer: Adenocarcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma. The treatment of these cancers is somewhat similar, but different enough that we have prepared a video to specifically address squamous cell carcinoma.

11 Types of Esophageal Cancer

This video will focus on locally-advanced *adenocarcinoma*

12 Why not just Cut it out?

I am occasionally asked by patients why we don't just remove esophageal cancer with surgery as the first treatment.

The answer is a bit complex.

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When a patient is diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus or gastroesophageal junction, it can look like the cancer is confined to the esophagus.

14 <esophageal cancer with 'fingers'>

what we see from inside the esophagus is just the tip of the iceberg.

There is frequently spread of cancer cells into the nearby tissue or lymph nodes

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If surgery is performed as the only therapy for locally-advanced cancer,

16

there is a risk that cancer cells can be left behind

17 Locally Advanced

Preoperative therapy is administered before surgery And is designed to shrink the tumor

18 Locally Advanced

and kill cancer cells in the surrounding area

This therapy typically involves chemotherapy

19 Locally Advanced

and may involve radiation

20 Locally Advanced

The overall goal is shrinking the tumor and killing nearby cancer cells, to make the surgery more effective

21 Surgery

After preoperative therapy has shrunk the tumor and any other cancer cells, surgery can be performed

22 Post Surgery

Preoperative therapy combined with surgery offers the best chance to remove all of the cancer, without leaving any behind

23 Post Surgery and Reconstruction

...without leaving any cancer cells behind

24 Preoperative Therapy 4

- Shrinks the tumor
- Make surgery more effective
- Leads to better cancer control than surgery alone

25 Neoadjuvant

You hear preoperative therapy referred to as “neoadjuvant therapy”

26 Preop Therapy

For adenocarcinoma of the esophagus, there are two different approaches to preoperative therapy.

One uses chemotherapy and radiation together, followed by surgery

27 Preop Therapy

The other uses chemotherapy before and after surgery, without radiation therapy

28 Chemotherapy + Radiation -> Surgery

The chemotherapy and radiation strategy uses chemotherapy and radiation together

Chemotherapy is given intraveneously once per week

Radiation is given five days per week

Both are administered together for 5 1/2 weeks

This is also known as the “CROSS” treatment regimen

29 Chemotherapy + Radiation -> Surgery

The chemotherapy is a low dose, designed to make the radiation more effective

The therapy is generally well tolerated

Hair loss is uncommon

Low blood counts are also uncommon, and occur in about 7% of cases

30 Esophagitis

The radiation can, however, cause inflammation in the esophagus called esophagitis.

This can make eating more uncomfortable during the last two weeks of radiation

The good news is that this is temporarily and usually resolves within 2 or 3 weeks after the radiation is completed.

31 Esophagitis

What this may mean, however, is placement of a temporary feeding tube may be needed.

32 Esophagitis

If a feeding tube is necessary, it can usually be removed by 3 weeks after the end of radiation.

33 Chemo + Radiation -> Surgery 2

To summarize, This approach to preoperative therapy uses six weeks of chemotherapy and radiation together.

Surgery is typically performed 6-8 weeks after the end of radiation, as soon as patients have recovered.

34 (4) Adenocarcinoma Preoperative Therapy 4

The second and somewhat newer approach to preoperative therapy for esophageal adenocarcinoma is treatment with chemotherapy, followed by surgery, followed by additional chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is given every other week for 4 doses,

Followed by surgery,

Followed by chemotherapy every other week for another 4 doses

35 Chemo -> Surgery -> Chemo

Chemotherapy is administered intravenously every other week for 4 doses over 8 weeks

Surgery is then performed 4-6 weeks later

Chemotherapy is again administered intravenously every other week for 4 more doses over 8 weeks

36 Chemotherapy Options

There are two commonly used “recipes” for chemotherapy:

FLOT consists of four drugs

FOLFOX consists of three drugs

37 Chemotherapy Options

As you might expect, FLOT is more effective against cancer, while FOLFOX has fewer side effects

38 Durvalumab Immunotherapy.

Durvalumab is a drug which activates the immune system to fight cancer

The combination of FLOT and Durvalumab appears to be more effective than FLOT alone

Durvalumab is typically given along with FLOT chemotherapy, followed by monthly doses

39 Chemo -> Surgery -> Chemo 2

To summarize, the chemotherapy strategy calls for 4 doses of chemotherapy before surgery, and an additional 4 doses of chemotherapy afterwards.

40 (2) Preoperative Therapy 4

If we compare Chemotherapy + Radiation (or CROSS) with chemotherapy (FLOT)..

We see that Chemotherapy + Radiation has fewer side effects, but FLOT chemotherapy is more effective

A central venous port is required for FLOT chemotherapy

Due to radiation esophagitis, a feeding tube is a little more likely to be needed with chemotherapy and radiation

41 ChemoRT vs Chemo

Your medical oncologist will guide you in the decision regarding chemotherapy + radiation vs chemotherapy alone.

In general, FLOT is recommended for younger and healthier patients

While chemotherapy and radiation is recommended for patients who may have difficulty tolerating FLOT

42 Preparing for Preoperative Therapy (42)

Nutrition during therapy is important to get through the treatment. We have a video about nutrition

Exercise is important to prevent loss of muscle mass, which can increase the risk of surgery

If you need any dental work done, it's important to check with your dentist about removing any potential source of infection

43 Preparing for Preoperative Therapy- (43)

In some cases, a feeding tube may be needed

A central venous port is frequently needed for chemotherapy administration

44 Wrap up 1

We hope you have found this video helpful. Here are some other topics for which videos have been posted or are planned.

Feel free to leave a comment or a question, or if you have suggestions for future videos.

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.

The radiation can lead to irritation of the lining of the esophagus called radiation esophagitis. One can think of this as a sunburn on the inside of the esophagus. The result is that the therapy can make eating temporarily worse before it gets better. Usually the last two weeks of radiation therapy are the worst. By two weeks after radiation is completed, the tumor has shrunk enough that eating is usually better than before therapy.

For this reason, a temporary feeding tube is frequently necessary for patients getting chemotherapy and radiation