



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Esophageal Cancer

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/esophagealcancer.html>

## Esophageal Cancer

The esophagus is a hollow tube that carries food and liquids from your throat to your stomach. Early esophageal cancer usually does not cause symptoms. Later, you may have symptoms such as:

- Painful or difficult swallowing
- Weight loss
- A hoarse voice or cough that doesn't go away

You're at greater risk for getting esophageal cancer if you smoke, drink heavily, or have acid reflux [<https://medlineplus.gov/gerd.html>] . Your risk also goes up as you age

Your doctor uses imaging tests and a biopsy to diagnose esophageal cancer. Treatments include surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. You might also need nutritional support [<https://medlineplus.gov/nutritionalsupport.html>] , since the cancer or treatment may make it hard to swallow.

*NIH: National Cancer Institute*

### Start Here


- Esophageal Cancer [<https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal>]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago>]
- General Information about Esophageal Cancer [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-treatment-pdq#\\_107](https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-treatment-pdq#_107)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/tratamiento-esofago-pdq#\\_107](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/tratamiento-esofago-pdq#_107)]
- What Is Cancer of the Esophagus? [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/about/what-is-cancer-of-the-esophagus.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/acerca/que-es-cancer-de-esofago.html>]

### Diagnosis and Tests

- Esophageal Cancer Screening [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-screening-pdq#\\_19](https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-screening-pdq#_19)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/deteccion-esofago-pdq#section/\\_19](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/deteccion-esofago-pdq#section/_19)]
- Stages of Esophageal Cancer [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-treatment-pdq#\\_129](https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-treatment-pdq#_129)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/tratamiento-esofago-pdq#\\_129](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/tratamiento-esofago-pdq#_129)]
- Tests for Esophageal Cancer [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/how-diagnosed.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/deteccion-diagnostico-clasificacion-por-etapas/como-se-diagnostica.html>]
- Upper GI Endoscopy [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/upper-gi-endoscopy>]  (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/endoscopia-gastrointestinal-superior?dkrd=/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/endoscopia-esofagogastroduodenal>]

- Upper GI Series [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diagnostic-tests/upper-gi-series>]

 (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/informacion-de-la-salud/pruebas-diagnosticas/transito-esofagogastroduodenal>]

## Prevention and Risk Factors

- Can Esophageal Cancer Be Found Early? [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/detection.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/deteccion-diagnostico-clasificacion-por-etapas/deteccion.html>]

- Esophageal Cancer Prevention [<https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-prevention-pdq>]

 (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/prevencion-esofago-pdq#section/all>]


## Treatments and Therapies

- Drugs Approved for Esophageal Cancer [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/drugs/esophageal>]

 (National Cancer Institute)

- Supportive Therapy for Esophageal Cancer [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/treating/palliative-therapy.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/tratamiento/terapia-paliativa.html>]

- Treatment Option Overview (Esophageal Cancer) [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-treatment-pdq#\\_159](https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-treatment-pdq#_159)]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/tratamiento-esofago-pdq#\\_159](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/tratamiento-esofago-pdq#_159)]


## Living With

- Living as an Esophagus Cancer Survivor [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/after-treatment/follow-up.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/despues-del-tratamiento/cuidado-de-seguimiento.html>]

## Related Issues

- Barrett's Esophagus [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases/barretts-esophagus>]

 (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases)

- Questions to Ask About Esophageal Cancer [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/talking-with-doctor.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/deteccion-diagnostico-clasificacion-por-etapas/la-comunicacion-con-su-medico.html>]

- Risks of Esophageal Cancer Screening [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-screening-pdq#\\_29](https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/esophageal-screening-pdq#_29)]

 (National Cancer Institute)


Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/deteccion-esofago-pdq#section/\\_29](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/deteccion-esofago-pdq#section/_29)]

## Statistics and Research

- Cancer of the Esophagus [<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/esoph.html>]  (National Cancer Institute)

- Key Statistics for Esophageal Cancer [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>] (American Cancer Society)


Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/acerca/estadisticas-clave.html>]

- Preoperative Chemotherapy, Radiation Improve Survival in Esophageal Cancer (Updated) [<https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/research/preop-treatment-improves-survival>]  (National Cancer Institute)

- What's New in Esophageal Cancer Research? [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/esophagus-cancer/about/new-research.html>] (American Cancer Society)

Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/cancer-de-esofago/acerca/nuevas-investigaciones.html>]

## Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Esophageal Neoplasms [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Esophageal+Neoplasms%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles



References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: DKN-01 and tislelizumab as second-line therapy in DKK1-high gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma: DisTinGuish... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40640119>]
- Article: Efficacy of laryngeal mask airway versus endotracheal tube during total minimally... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40629036>]
- Article: Anlotinib plus camrelizumab and chemotherapy as first-line treatment in patients with... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40595001>]
- Esophageal Cancer -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Esophageal+Neoplasms%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]


## Reference Desk

- Dictionary of Cancer Terms [<https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms>]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/publicaciones/diccionarios/diccionario-cancer/>]

## Find an Expert

- American Cancer Society [<https://www.cancer.org/>]
- ASGE: Find a Doctor [<https://www.asge.org/find-a-doctor-results>] (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy)
- Choosing a Cancer Doctor [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/finding-care/where-to-find-cancer-care/choosing-a-cancer-doctor.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/como-sobrellevar-el-cancer/encontrar-tratamiento/como-elegir-un-medico-y-un-hospital/como-seleccionar-a-un-medico.html>]
- Find an ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialist) [<https://www.enthealth.org/find-ent/>]  
(American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery)
- National Cancer Institute [<https://www.cancer.gov/>]   
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/>]
- Organizations that Offer Cancer Support Services [<https://supportorgs.cancer.gov/home.aspx>]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://supportorgs.cancer.gov/home.aspx?lang=2>]

## Children

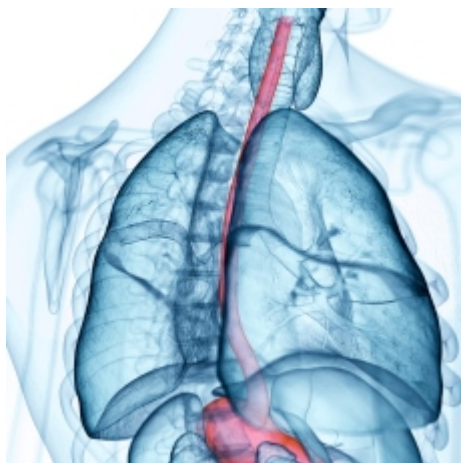
- Childhood Esophageal Cancer Treatment [<https://www.cancer.gov/types/esophageal/patient/child-esophageal-treatment-pdq>]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/esofago/paciente/tratamiento-esofago-infantil-pdq>]

## Patient Handouts

- Coughing up blood [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003073.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003073.htm>]
- Diet and eating after esophagectomy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000294.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000294.htm>]
- Esophageal cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000283.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000283.htm>]

- Esophagectomy - minimally invasive [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007396.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007396.htm>]
- Esophagectomy - open [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007397.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007397.htm>]
- Swallowing problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000065.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000065.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

After chemotherapy - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000012.htm>]

Coughing up blood [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003073.htm>]

Diet and eating after esophagectomy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000294.htm>]

Esophageal cancer [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000283.htm>]

Esophagectomy - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000241.htm>]

Esophagectomy - minimally invasive [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007396.htm>]

Esophagectomy - open [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007397.htm>]

Swallowing problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000065.htm>]

## Related Health Topics

Esophagus Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/esophagusdisorders.html>]

## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Esophageal Cancer* is the National Cancer Institute [<http://www.cancer.gov/>]

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