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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]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [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]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [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]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [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-esofagogastrroduodenal>]

- 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-esofagogastrroduodenal>]

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]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [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]

 (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [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+%5Bdat%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+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-sobrelevar-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) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000012.htm>]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Related Health Topics

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