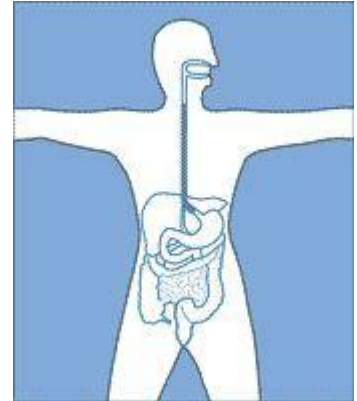


Oesophageal Cancer

(cancer of the food pipe or gullet)

How common is oesophageal cancer?

- ▣ Oesophageal cancer is the ninth most common cancer in the UK.
- ▣ Around 8,170 people were diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in the UK in 2008, that's around 157 people every week.
- ▣ Oesophageal cancer is the seventh most common cancer in men in the UK, with around 5,460 new cases diagnosed in 2008.
- ▣ Around 2,710 women were diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in 2008 in the UK.
- ▣ Around 8 in 10 oesophageal cancers occur in people aged 60 or over.
- ▣ Oesophageal cancer rates in men have risen by 50 per cent over the last 25 years. In women the rates increased by only 9%.
- ▣ It is estimated that around 33,000 people were diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in Europe (EU-27) in 2008.
- ▣ In 2008, an estimated 482,000 people were diagnosed with oesophageal cancer worldwide.



How many people survive oesophageal cancer?

- ▣ Younger oesophageal cancer patients have better survival rates than older patients.
- ▣ Overall, around 30% of patients diagnosed with oesophageal cancer survive the disease for at least one year after diagnosis.
- ▣ Ten year survival for oesophageal cancer has trebled in the last forty years but it is still low. Around 1 in 10 patients are likely to survive their disease for at least ten years.

How many people die from oesophageal cancer?

- ▣ Oesophageal cancer is the sixth most common cause of cancer death and accounts for around 5% of all cancer deaths in the UK.
- ▣ Around 7,610 people died from oesophageal cancer in the UK in 2008, that is around 20 people every day.
- ▣ Around 5,030 men in the UK died from cancer of the oesophagus in 2008 in the UK.
- ▣ Around 2,580 women in the UK died from oesophageal cancer in 2008 in the UK.
- ▣ Oesophageal cancer mortality rates in men have increased by 70% since the early 1970s.
- ▣ In Europe (EU-27), an estimated 28,800 people died from oesophageal cancer in 2008.
- ▣ Worldwide, in 2008, an estimated 406,800 people died from oesophageal cancer.

What are the main causes of oesophageal cancer?

- ▶ There are two main types of cancer of the oesophagus: squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma.
- ▶ Adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus is increasing rapidly in Western populations but the underlying reasons for this are unclear.
- ▶ Tobacco use increases the risk of both types of oesophageal cancer.
- ▶ Alcohol consumption increases the risk of squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus.
- ▶ Some of the highest risks of squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus occur in people who combine a smoking habit with regularly drinking alcohol.
- ▶ Around two-thirds of oesophageal cancers in the UK are caused by smoking and around one-fifth are linked to alcohol.
- ▶ Being overweight or obese increases risk of adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus.
- ▶ One of the strongest risk factors for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus is the pre-cancerous condition known as Barrett's oesophagus.
- ▶ Research suggests that regular use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) decreases the risk of oesophageal cancer.
- ▶ Radiotherapy to the chest area (mediastinum) and certain rare medical conditions have been linked to an increased risk of oesophageal cancer.



Oesophageal Cancer – UK	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases (2008)	5,461	2,712	8,173
Rate per 100,000 population*	14.8	5.4	9.8
Number of deaths (2008)	5,026	2,580	7,606
Rate per 100,000 population*	13.3	4.8	8.7
One year survival rate (for patients diagnosed 2000-2001 in England and Wales)	30%	27%	-
Five year survival rate (for patients diagnosed 2000-2001 in England and Wales)	8%	8%	-

*age-standardised to European standard population

Cancer Research UK's 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats> or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk