Gastric Cancer

May 2015

FACT SHEET

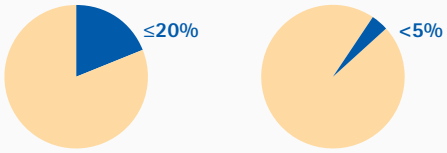
What is gastric cancer?

Gastric cancer (stomach cancer) is cancer that occurs in the stomach. The most common type of stomach cancer is gastric adenocarcinoma, which is a stomach cancer that begins in the mucus-producing cells lining the inside of the stomach.[1]

90–95%
of gastric cancers are adenocarcinomas.[1,2]

Diagnosis and prognosis

Gastric cancer is most often diagnosed when it is already at an advanced stage and has metastasized to different parts of the body.[3] For patients with advanced disease, the prognosis is poor. The **5-year survival rate in the U.S. is ≤ 20% for Stage III** gastric cancer and **< 5% for Stage IV** gastric cancer.[4]



STAGE III STAGE IV

Risk factors[3,8,9]

- **Helicobacter pylori infection**
- **Smoking**
- **Male** gender
- 50 **Older age**
- Diet **high in salty,** smoked or preserved foods
- **Low consumption** of fruits and vegetables
- Pernicious **anemia**
- Other **chronic gastric disease** or long term stomach inflammation
- **Family history** of stomach cancer
- Having an **inherited cancer** syndrome
- Exposure to certain **hazardous materials** (i.e., lead compounds, asbestos)
- **Epstein-Barr virus** infection

Incidence

Gastric cancer is uncommon in the U.S. and Western Europe.[2,3] Each year, there are approximately **22,000 new cases** of gastric cancer diagnosed in the U.S.[6] and **80,626 cases** diagnosed in the E.U.[7]

Gastric cancer is much more commonly diagnosed in East Asia, Eastern Europe, and parts of South America.[2,3]

Symptoms of gastric cancer can include:[5]

- Stomach pain or fullness, even after just a small meal
- Nausea and vomiting
- Unexplained weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Heartburn
- Anemia
- Difficulty swallowing
- Excessive belching
- Persistent ulcer

Current treatment options for gastric cancer may include:[2,10]

- Surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy
- Chemoradiotherapy
- Targeted therapies

Need for further research

Gastric cancer is aggressive and the **prognosis remains poor** for the majority of patients, who are typically diagnosed with advanced disease.[2-4] There is a clear **unmet medical need** for new treatment options.

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