

# STOMACH CANCER RISK & PREVENTION INFORMATION



Supporting Research. Empowering Families.

November is Stomach Cancer Awareness Month, and our mission is to support research and unite the caring power of people worldwide affected by stomach cancer.

**Know Your Risks. Know Your Family History.**

## Did you know?

- Hereditary Diffuse Gastric Cancer (HDGC) is an inherited cancer syndrome that leads to an increased lifetime risk up to 40% for diffuse gastric cancer, and 40-55% lifetime risk for lobular breast cancer in women.
- It is estimated that more than one million people worldwide will be diagnosed with stomach cancer this year, and that 71% of patients will die from the disease.\*
- Stomach cancer is the 5th most common malignancy in the world.\*
- Stomach cancer is the 3rd leading cause of cancer mortality worldwide.\*
- About 26,500 new cases of stomach cancer were estimated to be diagnosed in the United States alone for the year 2023.\*\*
- Over 11,130 Americans are estimated to die from stomach cancer in 2023.\*\*
- The estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 35.7% (2013-2019).\*\*\*
- Approximately 1 in 111 men and women will be diagnosed with stomach cancer in their lifetime.
- The National Cancer Institute invested only \$15.4 Million to fund Stomach Cancer research in 2021 compared to \$218.1 million to Pancreatic Cancer research efforts.\*\*\*\*
- Only 2.4% of the National Cancer Institute's 2021 budget was dedicated to Stomach Cancer.
- Stomach cancer received the second least amount of NCI research dollars in 2021 when compared to all other cancers.

It is estimated that over 1 million new cases will be diagnosed in the world this year, and more than 768,000 deaths. Last year alone, it was estimated that more than 11,000 Americans died from stomach cancer. 1 in 111 men and women are at a lifetime risk of this deadly disease.

In recent years, some types of stomach cancer have declined. However, other types that are more difficult to detect early and more deadly are on the rise.

## What are known risks for Stomach Cancer?

Some risks cannot be controlled, but others can be reduced by focusing on your health and choices. Look over the lists below and see what your risks and options might be.

Behavioral / Lifestyle Risks	Risks for Personal Awareness
Smoking	<i>H. pylori</i> bacterial infection
Obesity	Male gender
Diets rich in smoked, salted and pickled foods	Type A blood or Long term inflammation of the stomach
Diets low in fresh fruits and vegetables	Over age 65
Long term exposure to dusts and fumes	Family history (inherited cancers)
Alcohol Consumption	Hispanic American, African American, Pacific Islanders or Asian ethnicity

[www.NoStomachForCancer.org](http://www.NoStomachForCancer.org)

## Key Prevention and Risk Reducing Facts

- Early detection is the key to surviving stomach cancer.
- Lifestyle changes, such as smoking cessation and eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, can potentially reduce the risk of stomach cancer
- Treatment of *H. pylori* infection (a common bacterial infection of the stomach) can decrease the risk of stomach cancer development.
- Knowing your family history and discussing it with your healthcare provider can help determine if you are at risk for inherited cancer syndromes.

## Stomach Cancer Signs and Symptoms

Early stage stomach cancer rarely causes symptoms, making early detection very difficult. Stomach cancer may or may not present with vague gastrointestinal symptoms. These symptoms can also be associated with other gastrointestinal illnesses, however, and should be discussed with a doctor who can perform tests to determine the cause of the symptoms.

## Signs & Symptoms of Stomach Cancer can include:

- Indigestion, heartburn or difficulty swallowing
- Discomfort or pain in the abdomen
- Nausea and vomiting and/or bloating after meals
- Long-term Diarrhea or Constipation
- Loss of appetite and/or unexplained weight loss
- Weakness and fatigue
- Vomiting blood or blood in the stool
- Sense of fullness after eating small amounts
- Symptoms may mimic other conditions, such as GERD, Gastritis or Peptic Ulcer

Signs and symptoms should not be ignored. Most of these symptoms may or can be caused by things other than stomach cancer. They may also occur with other types of cancer. People who have any of these symptoms, especially if they don't go away or get worse, should see their doctor immediately to determine the cause and treatment options.

## Steps you can take to raise awareness and increase knowledge about stomach cancer

1. Know the factors that put you at risk for stomach cancer.
2. Know the signs and symptoms of stomach cancer.
3. Know your family history.
4. Be proactive. Talk with your doctor about your risks for cancer.
5. Visit our website often for up-to-date information.
6. Tell your family and friends what you are learning, and to visit [www.NoStomachForCancer.org](http://www.NoStomachForCancer.org)
7. Promote/sponsor an awareness event in your school, community, or at your place of work.
8. Browse the 'Get Involved' menu on this website to discovery the many ways to raise awareness

## Go With Your Gut!

If you feel that something isn't right and you are not getting the answers you need...don't give up. Be persistent. Continue to seek answers, and don't stop until you get them.

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### Sources:

- American Cancer Society
- National Cancer Institute: SEER Stat Fact Sheets
- National Cancer Institute: A Snapshot of Stomach (Gastric) Cancer
- National Cancer Institute Budget Fact Book
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Progress Review Groups: Report of the Stomach/Esophageal Cancers Progress Review Group
- National Cancer Institute: HDGC Patient Guidelines

### Additional Sources:

- \*\*\*\*National Cancer Institute: Funding For Research Areas  
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/budget/fact-book/data/research-funding>
- American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures

The content provided on this information sheet is not intended as, nor should it be considered a substitute for professional medical advice, professional diagnosis, opinion or treatment. Ask your physician or other healthcare provider to assist you in interpreting any information on this sheet or before applying such information to your individual case.