**Stomach Cancer**

[Stomach cancer](http://www.webmd.com/cancer/stomach-gastric-cancer) is the [cancer](http://www.webmd.com/cancer/default.htm)  of the inner lining of stomach. Also called gastric cancer, the disease usually grows slowly over many years.

**The initial**[**symptoms of stomach cancer**](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Cancer-of-the-stomach/Pages/Symptoms.aspx)

* Fatigue
* Feeling full after eating small amounts of food
* Heartburn
* Indigestion
* Nausea
* Stomach pain

Symptoms of advanced stomach cancer can include:

* blood in stools, or black stools
* loss of appetite
* weight loss

**People at risk**

* more in males
* are 55 years of age or older
* smokers
* have a diet low in fiber and high in processed food or red meat
* have a diet that contains a lot of salted and pickled foods
* have a stomach infection caused by Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) bacteria

**Diagnosis**

[Physical exam](http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/annual-physical-examinations).

**Blood tests** to look for signs of cancer in your body.

* **Upper endoscopy**.
* [**Upper GI**](http://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/upper-gastrointestinal-ugi-series)**series test**. Barium meal X-rays..
* [**CT scan**](http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/computed-tomography-ct-scan-of-the-body).
* [**Biopsy**](http://www.webmd.com/cancer/what-is-a-biopsy).

**Treatment**

* Treatment plan will depend on the origin and stage of the cancer. Age and overall health can also play a role.

The goal of treatment is to prevent the cells from spreading.

Stomach cancer, when left untreated, may spread to the:

* lungs
* lymph nodes
* bones
* liver

Stomach cancer is treated with one or more of the following:

* [chemotherapy](http://www.healthline.com/health/chemotherapy#ChemotherapyOverview1)
* [radiation therapy](http://www.healthline.com/health/radiation-therapy)
* surgery
* immunotherapy, such as vaccines and medication