**Oesophageal cancer**

**Cancer of the esophagus, is an uncommon but serious type of cancer**

**People at risk**

1-people over the age of 60, with the average age at diagnosis being 72. 2-The condition is more common in men than in women.

3-Smoking and drinking alcohol are two of the biggest risk factors for esophageal cancer, particularly if both activities are combined.

**Esophageal cancer symptoms**

**Symptoms of oesophageal cancer may include:**

* difficulty swallowing (dysphagia) or painful swallowing
* pain behind the breastbone and/or heartburn (reflux)
* vomiting of saliva, food or blood

hoarseness or coughing

**Tests and diagnosis**

**endoscopy** to examine the oesophagus. and take small tissue samples (biopsies).

* If oesophageal cancer is diagnosed, further tests, such as a **CT scan**, may be recommended to determine whether the cancer has spread.

Treating esophageal cancer

Oesophageal cancer does not usually cause any noticeable symptoms until the cancer has spread beyond the esophagus and into nearby tissue.

On average, 40% of people with esophageal cancer will live for one year after the diagnosis, and 13% will live for five years after the diagnosis.

Attempting to cure oesophageal cancer involves having a course of [chemotherapy](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Chemotherapy/Pages/Definition.aspx) (and [radiotherapy](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Radiotherapy/Pages/Introduction.aspx?url=Pages/What-is-it.aspx) as well in some cases) followed by surgery to remove the cancerous section of the esophagus.