

NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ Stomach Cancer



This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete [NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Stomach Cancer](#). These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit NCCN.org/patients or, to order printed copies, visit Amazon.com

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What is stomach cancer?



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stomach cancer (also called gastric cancer) is the uncontrolled growth of cells that line the inside of the stomach. Almost all stomach cancers are adenocarcinomas, which are the focus of this patient guide. ■ Testing for suspected stomach cancer includes a physical exam and medical history, genetic risk assessment, blood tests, and imaging tests. ■ Getting good nutrition is important before starting treatment. If you smoke tobacco, it is important to quit so that you get the best treatment results. 	<p>7</p>
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What are the main treatments for stomach cancer?

Endoscopic resection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Endoscopic resection is an option for removing early stomach cancers that haven't grown beyond the first layer of the stomach wall. This treatment removes small tumors using tools inserted through an endoscope. 	<p>20</p>
Surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Surgery is a treatment option for many stomach cancers. The goal of surgery is to remove the entire tumor and some normal-looking tissue surrounding it. ■ The type of surgery used to treat stomach cancer is called a gastrectomy. A gastrectomy removes some or all of the stomach, depending on the extent of the cancer. 	<p>21</p>
Chemotherapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chemotherapy is the use of medicines to treat cancer cells throughout your body. It may be used with surgery, or with surgery and radiation therapy to treat locoregional stomach cancers. 	<p>24</p>
Targeted therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Targeted therapy is a cancer treatment that can target and attack specific types of cancer cells. Treatment with a targeted therapy is often used for people with specific gene mutations. 	<p>25</p>



How is stomach cancer treated?

<p>Early stomach cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early stomach cancers have not grown or spread beyond the first layer of the stomach wall. ■ Endoscopic resection (removal) is a treatment option for all early stomach cancers. If you are able and willing to have surgery, gastrectomy with lymph node dissection is also an option. 	<p>28</p>
<p>Locoregional stomach cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If a stomach tumor grows beyond the first layer of the stomach wall (the mucosa), it is called locoregional cancer. There may be cancer in nearby lymph nodes, but not in areas far from the stomach. ■ Surgery may be a treatment option for these cancers, depending on your overall health and the location and extent of the cancer. In some cases, chemotherapy is given before and after surgery. Chemoradiation given before surgery may also be an option. 	<p>31</p>
<p>Metastatic stomach cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cancer cells can spread to distant parts of the body and form new tumors. This is called metastasis. Metastatic stomach cancer usually cannot be cured. ■ Treatment options are based on your performance status, which is your ability to do everyday tasks and activities. Supportive care is an option for all metastatic stomach cancers. Chemoradiation and systemic therapy may also be options. 	<p>38</p>

How do I decide between options?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shared decision-making is a process in which you and your doctors plan treatment together. ■ Asking your doctors questions is vital to getting the information you need to make informed decisions. ■ Getting a second opinion, attending support groups, and comparing benefits and downsides may help you decide on a treatment plan with your doctor. 	<p>47</p>
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