

Diagnosing Stomach Cancer - A Quick Guide



Contents

This is a brief summary of the information on 'Diagnosing stomach cancer' from CancerHelp UK. You will find more detailed information on the website.

In this information there are sections on

- Tests for stomach cancer
- Further tests for stomach cancer
- Questions for your doctor

Tests for stomach cancer

You will usually see your family doctor first, who will ask you about your general health and examine you. He or she will ask about any symptoms. Your doctor will examine you and feel your tummy (abdomen). It may feel tender, or it may be possible to feel a lump. After your examination, your doctor will need to refer you to hospital for tests and X-rays. You may see a specialist next. Or your GP may send you to hospital for some tests first.

At the hospital

The specialist will ask you about your medical history and symptoms. He or she will then examine you by feeling your abdomen. You may have blood tests and a chest X-ray to check your general health. Then other tests will be arranged for you in

the outpatients department. These may include an endoscopy and a barium meal

There is more information about each of these tests on CancerHelp UK

Further tests for stomach cancer

If your tests show you have stomach cancer you may need further tests to see if the cancer has spread. These tests help your doctor work out the stage of your cancer. And to decide on the best treatment. You may have an endoscopic ultrasound, a CT scan, PET-CT scan or MRI scan, a chest X-ray, blood tests, a laparoscopy and an ultrasound scan of your liver.

After the tests

You usually come back to the hospital to see your specialist when your test results have come through. This is bound to take a little time, even if only a few days. You may feel very anxious during this time.

Suggestion

When you are waiting for results, it may help to talk to a close friend or relative about how you are feeling. Or you may want to contact a cancer support group to talk to someone who has been through a similar experience.



Questions for your doctor about tests for stomach cancer

Notes

- What tests are you going to do?
- What are you looking for?
- Will the tests show whether I have cancer?
- Will the tests show whether my cancer can be operated on?
- Are any of the tests painful?
- Do any of the tests have after effects?
- Can I have these tests as an outpatient?
- Should I bring someone with me when I have the tests?
- How long will the results take?
- Who will give me the test results?

More information

For more information about stomach cancer, visit our website
<http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org>

You will find a wide range of detailed, up to date information for people affected by cancer, including a clinical trials database that you can search for cancer trials in the UK. You can view or print the information in a larger size if you need to.

For answers to your questions about cancer call our Cancer Information Nurses on **0808 800 4040** 9am till 5pm Monday to Friday

Adapted from Cancer Research UK's Patient Information Website CancerHelp UK in July 2010. CancerHelp UK is not designed to provide medical advice or professional services and is intended to be for educational use only. The information provided through CancerHelp UK and our nurse team is not a substitute for professional care and should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease. If you have, or suspect you may have, a health problem you should consult your doctor.
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