

Diagnosing Stomach Cancer

A Quick Guide

Contents

This is a brief summary of 'Diagnosing stomach cancer' from our website. You will find more detailed information on there. In this information there are sections on

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

You can view this information in a larger print on our website.

Tests for stomach cancer

You will usually see your family doctor (GP) first, who will ask you about your general health and examine you. They 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 may refer you to hospital for tests such as endoscopy or to see a specialist.

At the hospital

The specialist will ask you about your medical history and symptoms. They will then examine you by feeling your tummy (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 if you have not had one already, and a barium meal.

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 your clinical nurse specialist, 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

- 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?
- Is there a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) I can speak to?

For more information, visit our website <http://www.cruk.org/about-cancer>

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 trials in the UK. Our information is based on the best current scientific evidence and reviewed regularly by leading clinicians and experts in health and social care.

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

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