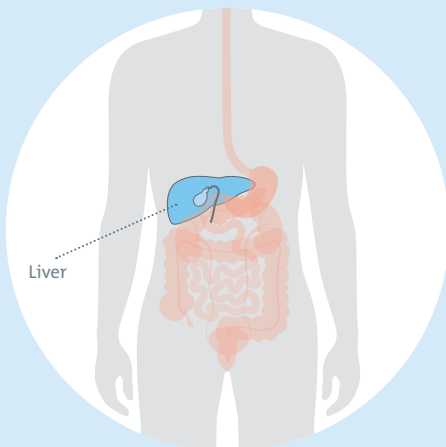




What is liver cancer?

Primary liver cancer occurs when cancerous cells (such as tumours) begin to grow in the liver.

Secondary liver cancer is the most common type of liver cancer and occurs when other types of cancers such as breast cancer or stomach cancer have spread to the liver.



Signs and symptoms

We encourage you to consult your GP if your health concerns persist.

Signs and symptoms of liver cancer can include:

- > dark urine
- > fatigue
- > weight loss
- > lower abdomen pain
- > a fever that is not caused by an infection and that does not go away
- > yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- > itchy skin
- > swollen abdomen caused by fluid build-up (ascites)
- > pale bowel movements.

Common diagnostic tests for liver

To investigate your health concerns, your doctor may schedule one or more of the following tests.

Blood tests

Though blood tests are not a diagnostic tool for stomach cancer, your doctor may schedule tests to check your overall blood and liver health.

Biopsy

A biopsy is the removal of a small piece of tissue that will be examined under a microscope. Your doctor may request you undergo a biopsy either by keyhole surgery (general anaesthetic) or fine needle aspiration (local anaesthetic) to determine whether you have liver cancer.

Imaging tests

Depending on symptoms, your doctor and care team may schedule imaging tests to assess or diagnose your cancer. Each imaging test provides your care team with a different view of your body. Some common scans for liver cancer include an ultrasound, CT or MRI.

Treatment options

Your Epworth specialist will discuss the treatment options with you and consider your circumstances and preferences.

Radiofrequency ablation

Radiofrequency ablation is a type of liver cancer treatment that uses heat to destroy cancer cells.

Surgery

Depending on the stage of your liver cancer and where the tumours are located, your care team may recommend one of two forms of liver cancer surgery:

Partial hepatectomy

During this surgery, a section or all of the tumour is removed from the liver. If the liver is not damaged, the remaining part can regenerate and heal following the surgery.

Liver transplant

Depending on your age, circumstances and stage of liver cancer, your doctor may recommend the entire liver is removed and replaced by a donor liver.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is a common form of treatment involving the use of anti-cancer drugs to attack cancer cells. It is often used alongside other treatments such as surgery or radiotherapy.

Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy is the use of radiation to treat and manage cancer.

Targeted therapy

If you have a certain type of liver cancer, such as hepatocellular carcinoma, you may be recommended targeted therapy. This type of treatment targets features of cancer cells to stop them growing.

Your doctors and treating team

Throughout your liver cancer journey, your team is likely to include a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, hepatobiliary surgeon and nursing and allied health staff. You may also see other specialists such as a medical oncologist or radiation oncologist.

Why choose Epworth for cancer care?

No one wants to experience cancer. *Our goal is to support you.*

You can expect a trusted specialist who will listen to your concerns and discuss the latest treatments, giving you choice and options. You will receive care in comfortable, nurturing spaces where your loved ones can be a part of your journey.

Your own team of experts – doctors, nurses and allied health professionals – will focus on your wellbeing. **Ask your GP for a referral to Epworth.**

The liver cancer pathway at Epworth

Information to help you feel prepared for your next steps.

> Symptoms

Speak to your GP if you experience symptoms of liver cancer.

> Diagnosis

Your GP can refer you to Epworth to access several diagnostic tests for liver cancer investigation.

> Treatment

Epworth specialists are here to guide and support you in understanding treatment options and making your choice of treatment.

> Rehabilitation

Holistic rehabilitation programs are available before, after or during treatment, tailored to your individual needs.

> After treatment

Epworth patients in remission from liver cancer may need follow-up appointments.

Choose your Epworth liver cancer specialist



Click
or scan the
QR code



- > Gastroenterologists
- > Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) surgeons
- > Medical oncologists

Epworth locations for cancer care

We are Victoria's largest not-for-profit private hospital group, renowned for excellence in diagnosis, treatment, care and rehabilitation. You will find specialist wards, imaging, pathology, and more, all onsite.

Get access to:

- > Your choice of specialist and location.
- > Timely screening, investigation and diagnosis.
- > Treatment (including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted treatment and clinical trials).
- > Modern inpatient and day oncology facilities.
- > Multidisciplinary care with experts across specialties.

Epworth Eastern

1 Arnold Street
Box Hill VIC 3128
Phone 03 8807 7100

Epworth Freemasons

109 Albert Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Phone 03 9483 3833

Epworth Geelong

1 Epworth Place
Waurm Ponds VIC 3216
Phone 03 5271 7777

Epworth Richmond

89 Bridge Road
Richmond VIC 3121
Phone 03 9426 666

To become an Epworth patient, ask your GP for a referral to an Epworth specialist.



For more information about liver cancer visit epworth.org.au/oncology