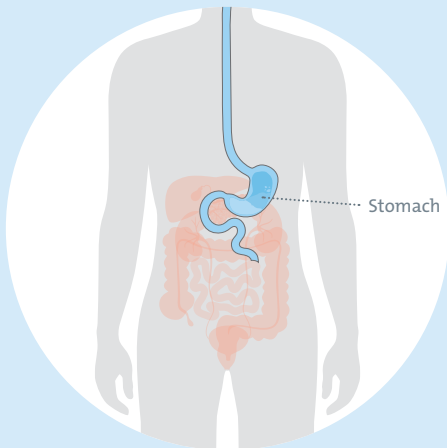




What is stomach cancer?

In Australia, stomach cancer is relatively common. It occurs when cancerous cells (such as tumours) begin to grow in any part of the stomach.



Signs and symptoms

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

Signs and symptoms of stomach cancer can include:

- > unexplained fatigue
- > unexplained weight loss
- > lower abdominal pain or burning sensation
- > black-coloured faeces
- > nausea or vomiting (blood may be present in the vomit)
- > swelling of the abdomen.

Common diagnostic tests for stomach cancer

To investigate your health concerns, your gastroenterologist or GP may schedule one or several 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.

Stool tests

Your doctor may request a stool (faeces) sample to determine whether there are small traces of blood in your stool.

Endoscopy

An endoscopy is a common diagnostic test for stomach cancer. A thin tube with a camera at the end, known as an endoscope, will enter through your mouth and be used to look at your stomach for signs of cancer. At Epworth, an endoscopy is generally performed as a day procedure.

Biopsy

During an endoscopy, a biopsy may be performed. A biopsy is the removal of a small piece of tissue that will be examined under a microscope.

Treatment options

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

Surgery

Surgery is the most common treatment for stomach cancer. There are two types:

Partial gastrectomy

During this surgery, a section of the stomach is removed.

Total gastrectomy

Depending on your age, circumstances and stage of stomach cancer, your doctor may recommend the entire stomach is removed.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is a common form of treatment involving the use of anti-cancer drugs to attack cancer cells. Chemotherapy is often used in conjunction with stomach cancer surgery.

Your doctors and treating team

Throughout your stomach cancer journey, your team is likely to include a gastroenterologist, an upper GI surgeon and nursing and allied health staff. You may also see other specialists such as a medical oncologist.

Your care team is here to provide you with comprehensive treatment, access to talented, caring specialists and support for you, and your family, during this challenging time.

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 treatment options available for you to choose from.

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 stomach cancer pathway at Epworth

Information to help you feel prepared for your next steps.

> Symptoms

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

> Diagnosis

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

> Treatment

Epworth specialists are here to help you understand your treatment options so you can make an informed 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 stomach cancer may need follow-up appointments.

Choose your Epworth stomach cancer specialist



Click
or scan the
QR code



> Gastroenterologists

> Upper GI
surgeons

> Medical
oncologists

> Radiation
oncology service

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 stomach cancer visit epworth.org.au/oncology