

The Audit received information about

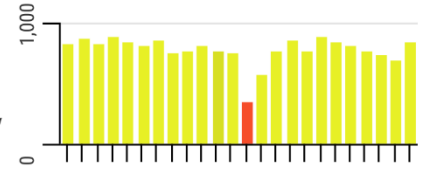
**19,174**

patients in England and Wales

diagnosed with oesophago-gastric (OG) cancer between April 2019 and March 2021, including 14,157 patients with oesophageal cancer and 5,017 patients with gastric cancer.

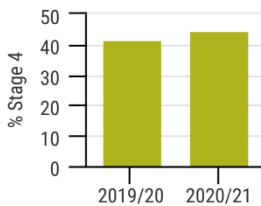
**Impact of COVID-19 on diagnoses**

In April 2020, the number of patient records submitted to the Audit fell to 43.6% of the 2019/20 monthly average, from 837 to 365 cases per month.



Month of diagnosis, April 2019-March 2021

**Routes to diagnosis**



The percentage of patients diagnosed with stage 4 OG cancer (advanced disease) increased from 41.6% in 2019/20 to 44.9% in 2020/21.



Between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the percentage of patients diagnosed after an emergency hospital admission increased from:

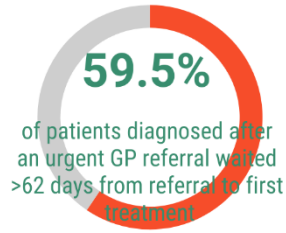
- 9.5% to 10.6% among patients with oesophageal cancer
- 17.5% to 21.4% among those with stomach cancer.

**Waiting times**

Among patients diagnosed with OG cancer in 2019-2021:

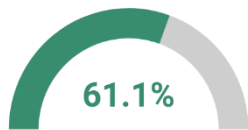


20.0%  
waited >104 days from referral to start of curative treatment



59.5%  
of patients diagnosed after an urgent GP referral waited >62 days from referral to first treatment

**Non-curative treatment**



61.1%  
of patients receiving palliative chemotherapy completed their treatment. This proportion has increased from 44.9% among those diagnosed in 2016/17 to 61.4% in 2020/21



84.8%  
of patients receiving palliative radiotherapy had a prescription that corresponded to an evidence-based regimen for OG cancer

**Outcomes of curative surgery**

Among patients diagnosed with OG cancer in 2018-2021\*:

**Oesophagectomy**

Median length of stay  
**11 days**

30-day mortality  
**1.5%**

Positive longitudinal margins  
**4.2%**

90-day mortality  
**3.3%**

Positive circumferential margins  
**20.3%**

**Gastrectomy**

Median length of stay  
**8 days**

30-day mortality  
**1.4%**

Positive longitudinal margins  
**9.8%**

90-day mortality  
**2.6%**

\*3 years' of data used for surgical outcomes to ensure enough procedures included in the analysis to produce robust organisation-level statistics.

**Glossary**

**Stage 4 cancer** - This describes advanced cancers which have spread beyond the site of the original tumour to other organs/parts of the body. Treatment options are limited to therapies that might extend life or control symptoms but are unlikely to result in remission.

**Oesophagectomy** - The surgical removal of all or part of the oesophagus.

**Gastrectomy** - A surgical procedure to remove either a section or all of the stomach.

**Margins** - The edge of the tissue that is removed during surgery. A positive margin means that there are cancer cells at the edge of the removed tissue and more surgery may be needed. Circumferential margins are assessed after oesophagectomy, and are not applicable to gastrectomy.

The Audit received information about

# 447

patients in England

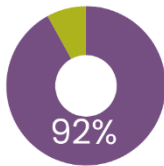
diagnosed with high-grade dysplasia of the oesophagus between April 2019 and March 2021.

## Patient characteristics

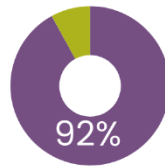


- Median age: 71 years
- 76% male
- 76% had a segment of Barrett's oesophagus
- 56% were diagnosed while on surveillance programmes and 44% after referral from a GP

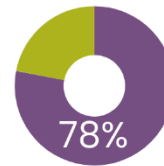
## Recommended process of care



of patients had their diagnosis confirmed by a second pathologist



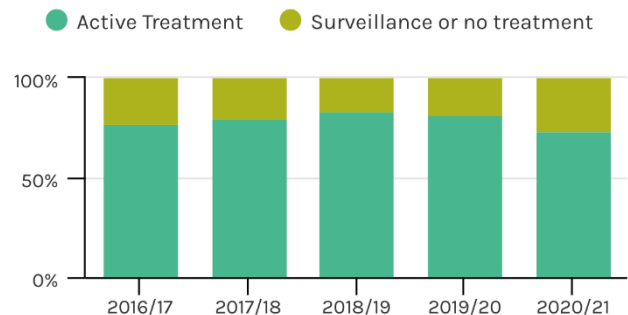
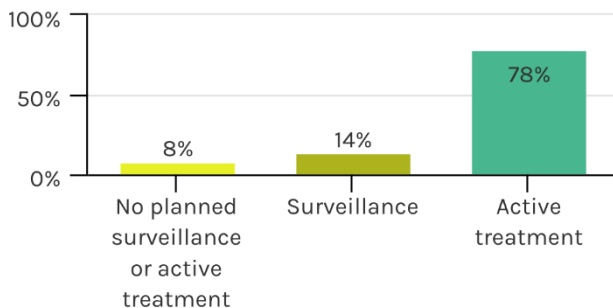
of patients were discussed at a multidisciplinary team meeting



of patients had a plan for active treatment; 97% of these patients had a plan for endoscopic treatment

## Primary treatment plan

Primary treatment among patients diagnosed between 2019 and 2021



## Outcomes of endoscopic treatment

Outcomes after endoscopic mucosal resection / endoscopic submucosal dissection between 2019 and 2021

21% of endoscopic resections had positive deep margins (HGD cells present at the base of the removed specimen)

15% of endoscopic resections had positive lateral margins (HGD cells present at the side edges of the removed specimen)

## Glossary

**Barrett's oesophagus** - Changes in the cells on the inner lining of the lower part of the oesophagus.

**EMR/ESD** - endoscopic mucosal resection/ endoscopic submucosal dissection - Procedures to remove abnormal tissue from the digestive tract using a telescopic camera to guide instruments.

**High-grade dysplasia** of the oesophagus - The presence of severely abnormal cells (precancerous cells) in the lining of the oesophagus. It can turn into cancer if it is left untreated.