

Esophageal Cancer: The Next Steps in Your Care

This handout provides information about the next steps in your care for the treatment of your esophageal cancer. Your healthcare team will work with you to make a treatment plan that is right for you.

Your appointment	What will happen at this appointment
<u>After</u> your surgical consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clerk or nurse will call to give you a schedule of appointments for the tests your surgeon has ordered for you. • Call your nurse navigator if you have difficulty swallowing, drinking fluids or eating solid foods.
Follow up with the surgeon	<p>This appointment will be scheduled about 3 weeks after your surgical consult.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surgeon and nurse navigator will review your test results with you. • The surgeon will talk about your treatment plan with you. This may include a discussion about surgery. Surgery will not happen until after you have finished your chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Your surgeon may have you sign a consent for surgery. • The surgeon will refer you to a medical oncologist (a doctor who specializes in chemotherapy treatments) and a radiation oncologist (a doctor who specializes in radiation therapy treatments) - if the referrals were not made at your surgical consult appointment.
Consult appointments with a medical oncologist and a radiation oncologist	<p>These appointments will be scheduled for about 2 weeks after your follow up appointment with the surgeon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will see a medical oncologist and a radiation oncologist. • You will be given information about chemotherapy and radiation treatments. This includes how these treatments work, possible side effects and what your treatment plan will be. You will sign consents for these treatments.
Chemotherapy and radiation therapy treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be given a schedule of your treatment appointments. You will be given treatment for about 6 weeks. • When your treatment is finished you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Be scheduled to have a PET scan. This will be scheduled about 4 weeks after your chemotherapy/radiation treatments are completed. ➤ Be given an appointment to see the surgeon.
Follow up with your surgeon	<p>This appointment will be scheduled about 1 week after you have your PET scan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your surgeon will review the results of your PET scan with you. • If your treatment plan includes surgery, it will be scheduled about 6-8 weeks after your radiation treatments are completed.
The next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your health care team will tell you what the next steps in your care will be. This is not the same for every patient.