



How can you detect **Esophageal Cancer** if it does not present any symptoms that you can recognize?

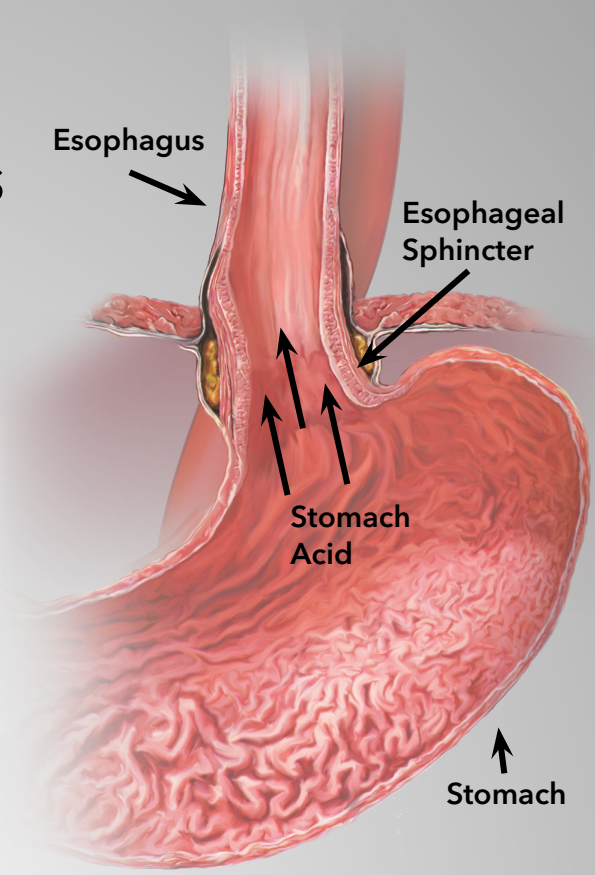
Simple; it is rare to find someone who has EC that did not have **chronic** heartburn for **a long time**.

By **"chronic"** we mean several times a week almost every week.

By **"a long time"** we mean for 4-6 weeks in a row.

If heartburn symptoms occur frequently and persistently, it may be a sign of a more serious problem, such as **GERD**.

GERD is an ongoing, chronic reflux of acid into the esophagus.



ADENOCARCINOMA

Left untreated, **GERD** can lead to **Barrett's esophagus** (a change in the lining of the esophagus that increases the risk of developing an invasive cancer known as **Adenocarcinoma**).

DON'T IGNORE THE SIGNS

Anyone with chronic heartburn should insist on seeing a gastroenterologist and start exploring their options.

Performing an upper endoscopy will allow the physician to gather tissue samples from any abnormal areas of the esophagus, which can then help to determine if there are any cancer cells present.



Sources:
<http://www.webmd.com/heartburn-gerd/heartburn-and-gerd>
<http://pathology2.jhu.edu/beweb/cancer.cfm>
<http://www.webmd.com/heartburn-gerd/guide/is-it-heartburn-gerd>