

## Facts about Barrett's Esophagus, GERD and Esophageal Cancer

- In a study published in 2005, Barrett's esophagus was estimated to affect approximately 3.3 million adults in the United States.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Barrett's esophagus can lead to a dangerous type of cancer called esophageal adenocarcinoma, which has a five-year patient survival rate of approximately 17%.<sup>3</sup>
- The American Cancer Society estimates that during 2007, approximately 15,560 new esophageal cancer cases will be diagnosed.
- Barrett's esophagus progresses to high-grade dysplasia or cancer at a combined rate of 1.4% per patient per year, with .5% per year developing cancer.<sup>4</sup>
- Barrett's esophagus is common among those who suffer from reflux, called GERD. Approximately 13% of Caucasian men over the age of 50, who have chronic reflux, will develop Barrett's esophagus.<sup>5</sup>
- GERD is common in the U.S. adult population. Symptoms of GERD, including heartburn, occur almost monthly in 44% of U.S. adults and weekly in almost 18%.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> "Study provides first estimate of U.S. population affected by Barrett's esophagus." [Gastro.org](http://Gastro.org). 2006. American Gastroenterological Association. <[www.gastro.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=1834](http://www.gastro.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=1834)> Accessed August 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Ronkainen J, Aro P, Storskrubb T, et al. Prevalence of Barrett's esophagus in the general population: an endoscopic study. *Gastroenterology* 2005; 129:1825-1831.

<sup>3</sup> "What are the Key Statistics About Cancer of the Esophagus?" [Cancer.org](http://Cancer.org). 2006. American Cancer Society. <[www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI\\_2\\_4\\_1X\\_What\\_are\\_the\\_key\\_statistics\\_for\\_esophagus\\_cancer\\_12.asp?sitearea=>](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_are_the_key_statistics_for_esophagus_cancer_12.asp?sitearea=>) Accessed October 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Sharma P, Falk GW, Weston AP, et al. Dysplasia and cancer in a large multicenter cohort of patients with Barrett's esophagus. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2006; 4:566-572

<sup>5</sup> Westhoff B, Brotze S, Weston A, et al. The frequency of Barrett's esophagus in high-risk patients with chronic gerd. *Gastrointestinal Endosc.* 2005; 61:226-231.

<sup>6</sup> Shaheen N, Ransohoff DF. Gastroesophageal reflux, Barrett's esophagus and esophageal cancer. *Journal of the American Medical Association.* 2002; 287: 1972-1981.



- Heartburn is the most common symptom of GERD. Patients who experience heartburn twice a week or more may have GERD.<sup>7</sup>
- Patients with Barrett's esophagus have an increased risk of developing esophageal adenocarcinoma<sup>8</sup>; 30 to 125 times higher than patients without this condition.<sup>9</sup>
- From 1975 to 2001, the frequency of esophageal adenocarcinoma rose approximately six-fold in the U.S. from 4 to 23 cases per million people. At the same time, the rate of deaths due to this form of esophageal cancer has grown by seven-fold, from 2 to 15 deaths per million people.<sup>10</sup>
- Esophageal adenocarcinoma is now the fastest growing form of cancer in the U.S., and its incidence is rising faster than breast cancer, prostate cancer or melanoma.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup>National Institutes of Health. Heartburn, Hiatal Hernia, and Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), Maryland:., National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse, May, 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Reid B.J and Weinstein W. M. Barrett's esophagus and adenocarcinoma. *Gastroenterology Clinics of North America* 1987; 38: 477-492.

<sup>9</sup> G.M. Eisen. Ablation therapy for barrett's esophagus. *Gastrointestinal Endosc.* 2003; 58: 760-769.

<sup>10</sup> Heiko Pohl and H.G. Welch. The role of over diagnosis and reclassification in the Marked Increase of esophageal adenocarcinoma incidence. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2005: 97: 142-146.

<sup>11</sup> "Fastest Rising Form of Cancer in the U.S." Webmd.com. 2005. WebMD.  
< [www.webmd.com/cancer/news/20050118/esophageal-cancer-on-rise](http://www.webmd.com/cancer/news/20050118/esophageal-cancer-on-rise)

