

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.^{1,2}
- 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%.³
- 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.⁴
- 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.⁵
- 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%.⁶

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

² 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.

³ "What are the Key Statistics About Cancer of the Esophagus?" 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=> Accessed October 2007.

⁴ 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

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.⁷
- Patients with Barrett's esophagus have an increased risk of developing esophageal adenocarcinoma⁸; 30 to 125 times higher than patients without this condition.⁹
- 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.¹⁰
- 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.¹¹

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

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

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

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ "Fastest Rising Form of Cancer in the U.S." *Webmd.com.* 2005. WebMD.
< www.webmd.com/cancer/news/20050118/esophageal-cancer-on-rise

