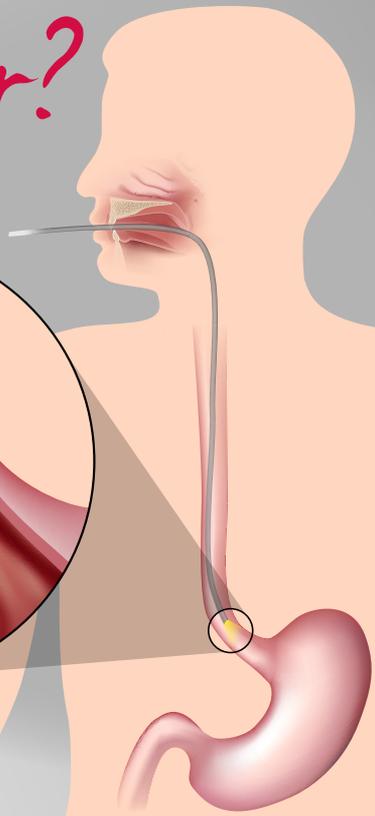
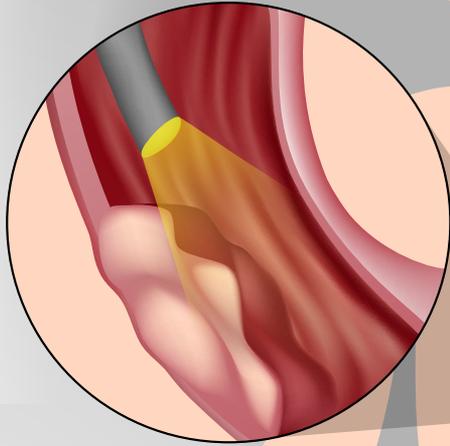


What is esophageal cancer?

Esophageal cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the esophagus. Cancer of the esophagus usually starts in the innermost layer of the esophagus, known as the mucosa layer, and then grows outward through the submucosa and the muscle layer.



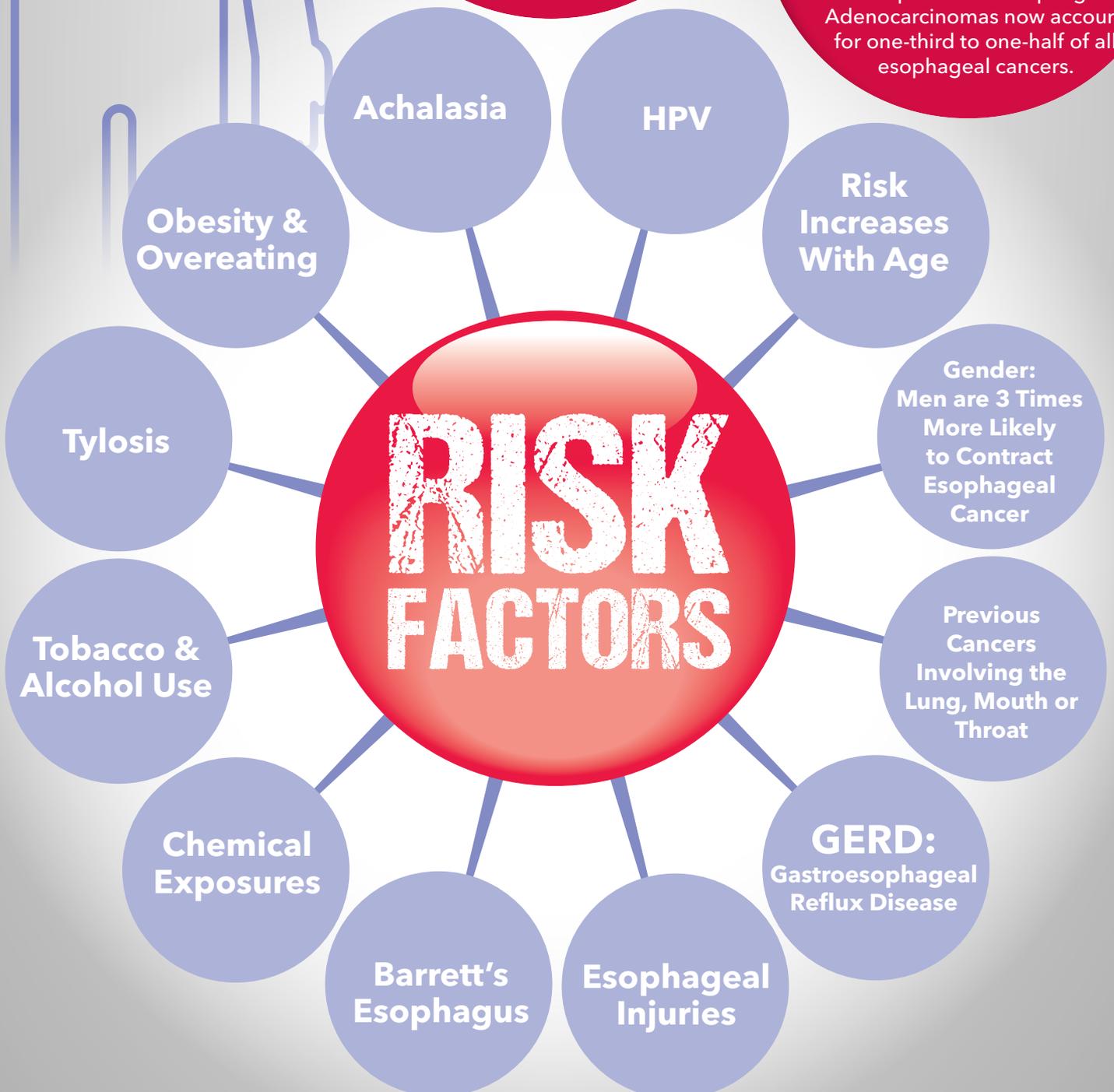
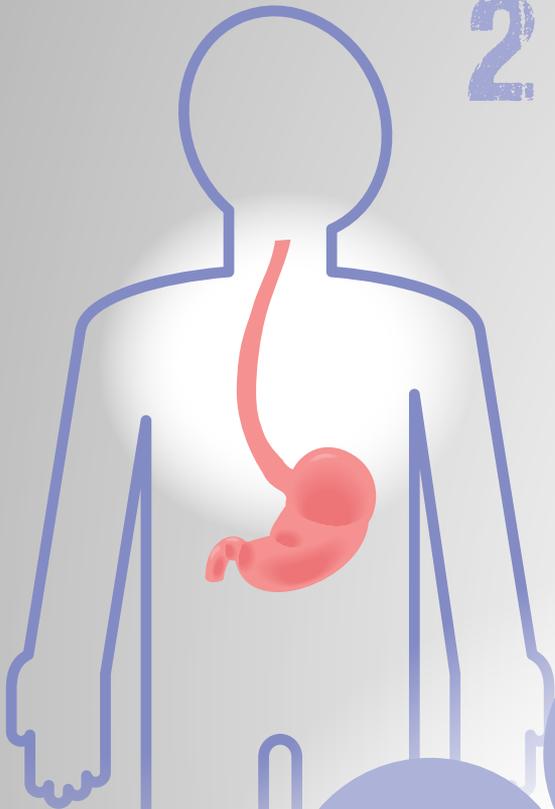
2 MAIN TYPES

1 Squamous Cell Carcinoma

This type of cancer can occur anywhere along the esophagus. It grows in the cells that form the top layer of the lining of the esophagus, known as squamous cells.

2 Adenocarcinoma

Here, gland cells have replaced an area of squamous cells, which occurs mainly in the lower part of the esophagus. Adenocarcinomas now account for one-third to one-half of all esophageal cancers.



Sources:

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/esophageal/Patient/page2>

<http://www.texasoncology.com/types-of-cancer/esophageal-cancer/>

<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/esophaguscancer/detailedguide/esophagus-cancer-risk-factors>